As I write this column to kick off the latest edition of GeoSpectrum, I want to thank Larry Brown for his tremendous work: his personal attention to the details makes this so much more than a Newsletter -- it is a capsule of the life of the department in the past few years with a look forward to upcoming events. As well as collecting anecdotes from all our friends and alumni, Larry adds personal reflections. He is doing this while also assuming the Interim Directorship of the Center for Urban and Regional Analysis. Needless to say Larry is also enthusiastically engaged in the search for a permanent successor, as he cheerfully explained to me that this is a temporary post.

Let me take a moment to presage some of the examples of faculty energy that you will read in the following pages: Ola Ahlqvist has helped students translate one of the treasures of our department into a new accessible virtual tour of Columbus is based on the long commitment of Emeritus Professor Henry Hunker to the city he has studied for so many decades. We have given his book as a memento to many visitors over the past years. Many of us enjoyed taking the real tour with Professor Hunker, the new virtual tour captures the spirit and texture of the city and ably reflects the text from his book. The new site is a commendable effort, and one that speaks well for the vitality of our discipline’s contribution to urban studies.

We are planning an elaborate series of events in 2009 (May) and a year long reconnection with our alumni. The occasion marks the fact that the first chair of our department Charles Clifford Huntington was appointed as a faculty member in 1909. There are other reasons to mark the 100 year anniversary: Board action in 1907 named Physical Geography as a potential component of the emerging Teacher’s College and although Geography did not become active immediately, it is clear that the department has its educational roots in the early 20th century. We are celebrating a century of continuity and change.

So what are we doing? We are re-dedicating resources to undergraduates who were a big part of Huntington’s mission. Kendra McSweeney has long argued for a new and revitalized central place for our undergraduates to meet and conduct research. A new resource-room is almost ready and will be unveiled as part of the centennial year celebration. We have launched a completely overhauled web site with professional design elements and all the useful information that you have come to expect.
Phil Birnie deserves a great deal of thanks for this work.

We hope you plan to join us at the event speakers for the May reunion – the weekend of May 14-16, 2009. There are so many other great items to boast of that I hardly have room to fit them all, but I’ll end with a mention of the enthusiastic work being done by some of our faculty -- stepping up to lead us in new directions, including in Curriculum (Becky Mansfield), in Departmental Event Planning (Darla Munroe), and in the Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Geo Spatial Data Analysis (Bryan Mark and Ningchuan Xiao).

Finally no Chair’s column would be complete without a note of personal thanks to the many people who make this a great department. Among our newest loyal supporters are Bob and Mary Reusche who have added their stalwart support to the department from a passion for Geography that grew from their education here. Thanks too to John Nelson for his support and to Drs. TR Lakshmanan and Lata Chaterjee for providing a huge vote of confidence in what we are accomplishing. Their support helps us to demonstrate that Geography as a discipline has made a difference in the lives of its alumni, faculty, staff, students, and friends.

Cindy Fan, and John Agnew. For specific dates and times, see www.geography.osu.edu. All are welcome to attend!

In January, we embrace the spirit of our department’s first Chair, Charles Clifford Huntington, and his commitment to undergraduate education with the opening of our new Huntington Undergraduate Resource Center -- a space where our diverse undergraduates can feel at home, study, and interact. In November, we will recognize National Geography Awareness Week with a Geocaching Challenge, pitting the wayfinding skills of students against faculty!

The year is anchored by our Centennial Celebration Weekend: Friday and Saturday, May 15-16 2009. Lost touch with old friends? Curious about our cutting-edge research? Wondering how Columbus has changed? Here’s your chance to get caught up!

On Friday, alum John Agnew of UCLA Geography and current President of the AAG will give an afternoon keynote address, followed by an awards reception. On Saturday, revisit old haunts and discover the ‘new’ Columbus with our “Columbus Then and Now” tour – one originally taken by Henry Hunker in 1956, updated in 2000 in his book Columbus Ohio: A Personal Geography, and updated again in 2008 as a virtual tour in an interactive mapping environment. Also tour the Department featuring our Atmospheric Science Program, and check out the new cartographic displays. Then cap the weekend with a dinner reception at the Faculty Club.

We look forward to celebrating the Department’s Centennial with you! Please let us know to expect you -- see the flyer, attached. And check out www.geography.osu.edu, for more details -- including Centennial memorabilia -- updates, and accommodation recommendations.

Questions? Don’t hesitate to contact Diane Carducci (614-292-3743; carducci.l@osu.edu).
See you in May!!!

Department Recognition of Students

Huntington Awards

The Charles Clifford Huntington Memorial Fund was established in 1957, the first Endowment of the Department of Geography. The initial Huntington Award was given in 1959 to David Wayne Ganyard (MA ’56, PhD ’67, advisor Fred Carlson/John Randall, deceased April 2000, formerly Associate Professor at Western Illinois University); and to Harold Rose (MA ’54, PhD ’60, advisor A.J. Wright, presently Professor Emeritus at University of Wisconsin Milwaukee). Originally a graduate student recognition, in 2003, the Huntington Award was re-directed to recognize the department’s strong presence in undergraduate education and excellent students in that venue. A complete list of past awardees appears in the third section of this GeoSpectrum08, Department Events and Marks.

The 2008 Huntington Award recipients were Emma Gorman (SAM) and Amanda Kass (PSE), both worthy honorees in the long history of the Huntington Award. The selection was made by the Undergraduate Studies Committee in consultation with Becky Mansfield as Undergraduate Advisor and Rick McClish, Coordinating Undergraduate Advisor.

Regarding Emma, the statement outlining her accomplishments said -- Emma Gorman is in the Spatial Analytic Methods track, and she has taken an impressive array of technical courses. Emma has been on the Dean's list throughout her OSU career. She held two paid GIS internships, and she did independent research on access to safe drinking water in Africa, under the direction of Darla Munroe. She has also been active in the re-invigorated Geography Club. According to one of her nomination letters, "Emma is an exceptionally bright and talented student… I think her academic potential is limitless." Emma is now working full-time for Franklin County as a GIS analyst, where she previously worked for several years as a GIS intern.

Regarding Amanda, the statement outlining her accomplishments said -- Amanda Kass is in the People-Society-Environment track. She has done so well in her courses she has been invited to take graduate seminars. Amanda also has done extensive independent research under the direction of Joel Wainwright. Her senior thesis is entitled "Neoliberal Nigeria: the United States, and Oil: Linking Production and Consumption." She presented this research at the annual meeting of the AAG. She has been a leader among Geography undergraduates, not only helping to re-invigorate the Geography Club, but also starting a reading group and encouraging other undergraduates to attend the AAG conference. She plans to apply for graduate programs in Geography this autumn and pursue a PhD beginning Fall 2009. Both of Amanda’s parents are OSUers, one in the Hospital and the other in Physics. Both proudly attended the Huntington Award ceremony.

Miller Awards

The E. Willard and Ruby S. Miller Fellow Award recognizes achievement over the full span of one’s graduate career at Ohio State Geography. As the plaque citation reads, it is “Given in Recognition of Outstanding Graduate Students on the Basis of Demonstrated Success in Writing, Scholarship, and Potential to Become Leaders as Professional Geographers. A Model Set by Will and Ruby – Partners in Life and Work – Continually Active as Teachers, Scholars, and Explorers - - Hon DSc Awarded to Will in December 1997 – Fifty-Five Years to the Day he received His 1942 Ohio State PhD”. The 2008 Miller Awardees are Delphine Ancien and Theresa Wong.

Concerning Delphine, Morton O’Kelly, drawing on the words of her advisor, Kevin Cox, said about her paper in Space and Polity (Local and Regional Development Policy in France: Of Changing Conditions and Forms, and Enduring State Centrality) —
In my view this is a very good paper indeed. It is a tribute to all that she has learnt as a graduate student and to her ability to both bring various ideas and approaches together in understanding a particular case; albeit, understanding it so as to shed light on the more general. Concerning Delphine’s dissertation, it provides a critical approach to understanding so-called world cities, using London as a case study. It constitutes a radical re-appraisal of a literature that is now very mainstream. And she finished it in record time. She loved being in the Department but decided that she had had enough of being a student. She will now be going to Ireland as a post-doc student. Delphine should feel at home there. There are strong similarities between Ireland and her native Brittany; the name Kevin is equally popular (!), and it rains just as much.

Concerning Theresa, Morton O’Kelly, drawing on the words of her advisor, Joel Wainwright, said –

As one might expect, Theresa’s grades have been excellent across a wide range of courses. Her record of teaching in our department is similarly excellent and only further highlights Theresa’s promise as a scholar. In sum, Theresa is on a trajectory to make major contributions to regional geography. I expect that she will defend her dissertation by the end of 2009 and that it will be published as a path-breaking book. And I am confident that she will obtain a position in a leading geography department at a Research I university. The Miller Fellowship is a critical step in this trajectory. Theresa is presently in Laos conducting her doctoral research, will return at the end of 2008, and spend 2009 writing her dissertation.

Kudos!

Congratulations to Jason Box who was promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure, beginning in the 2008-09 academic year.

Larry Brown, Distinguished University Professor and former chair of the Department of Geography at Ohio State, is the recipient of the 2008 Association of American Geographers Lifetime Achievement Honors Award, in recognition of his extraordinary vision and leadership in the field of geography. Brown’s career includes innovative research, superb mentoring of students and colleagues, and distinguished service at Ohio State and to the AAG. His work has played a significant role in the development of contemporary geographic thought in the areas of population movement, race/ethnicity in US metropolitan areas, innovation diffusion, and Latin American and Third World development. The complete inscription for Larry’s Honors Award is presented later in this GeoSpectrum08.

Larry also received the prestigious 2007 Walter Isard Award for Scholarly Achievement from the Regional Science Association. As stated on their web page “the award pays tribute to regional scientists who have made significant theoretical and methodological contributions to the field of Regional Science throughout their careers.”

Morton O’Kelly, Chair of Geography said “it is well-deserved for Larry to receive the [Isard] award in view of his own tireless contributions and the work he has done unselfishly to promote others through their nominations. The award named for THE major figure in Regional Science in the 20th century and is a major recognition. He joins some elite company (a who’s who of Regional Science).”

Mike Sutcliffe (PhD ’84, advisor Kevin Cox) received the first-ever Gilbert F. White Distinguished Public Service Honors of the AAG, and also the 2008 James R. Anderson Medal of Honor in Applied Geography, both among the most prestigious recognitions in Geography.

Mike has been at the center of political developments in South Africa for the last twenty years. His political career began with the African National Congress, as a member of its inner planning group and as an organizer in the 1980s. With the ending of apartheid he joined the ANC government, first as Minister with the KwaZulu-Natal provincial government. In 1999 he was appointed by Nelson Mandela to direct the National Demarcation Board, with the task of redrawing municipal and electoral boundaries.
so as to redress many of the social injustices of the apartheid era. Given the many entrenched interests, this was a highly charged political task. This was followed by appointment as city manager of Durban, a particularly important and sensitive area for the ANC because of the way it has been historically contested with the Zulu nationalist movement. Further, his training as a geographer has been at the center of much of his accomplishment. Over a lengthy career as political activist and then as a trusted member of the ANC government, Mike has proven himself to be an applied geographer par excellence and with a strong pro-people bent.

The complete inscription for Mike’s Honors Award is presented later in this GeoSpectrum08

Ellen Mosley-Thompson (PhD ’79, advisor John Rayner) and Lonnie Thompson (PhD ’76, Geology) are among this year’s winners of the prestigious Dan David Prize. Other recipients in 2008 are former US Vice President Al Gore, British playwright Tom Stoppard, Canadian filmmaker Atom Egoyan, Israeli author Amos Oz and British geologist Geoffrey Eglinton.

Each year, the Dan David Prize awards $1 million to winners in each of three categories, or “time dimensions” – past, present and future. Oz, Stoppard and Egoyan were selected in the “past” category, while Gore won for the “present” category. Thompson and Mosley-Thompson will share the $1 million award with Eglinton for the “future”.

“Being selected to receive this exceptional international prize is an honor that is deeply humbling,” explained Lonnie Thompson. “It acknowledges the vitally important role that glacial records can play in our efforts to understand the dramatic climatic and environmental changes occurring around the world.”

“A recognition of this magnitude actually honors the long-term efforts by our entire team of researchers and students at Ohio State. We’ve all devoted decades to deciphering the clues recovered from ice cores retrieved across the globe,” said Mosley-Thompson. “This is truly a reflection of the progress that can be made through a steady, sustained scientific approach to improving understanding and hopefully addressing the serious challenges that lie ahead.”

The Dan David Prize is supported by an endowment from the Dan David Foundation and is administered through Tel Aviv University. The awards were presented during a May 2008 ceremony at Tel Aviv University.

Previous winners of the award include cellist Yo-Yo Ma, conductor Zubin Mehta and climate scientist James Hansen.

One provision of the Dan David award allows its winners to designate 10 percent of their monetary award to support graduate students in their field of study. When asked about their plans for the award, Ellen said they plan to donate 10% to the Dan David Scholarship Fund from which 2008 Young Researchers Scholarships are awarded. “My student, Lijia Wei, and Lonnie’s student, Natalie, Kehrwald, were each awarded a $15,000 scholarship to support their graduate and post-doctoral work.

So with the remaining $450,000 -- Lonnie and I donated $225,000 to an endowment fund that we established (in 2003) at OSU with funds from the Commonwealth Award that we received in 2003. We set up this endowment fund to provide sustained support for the Ice Core Paleoclimate Research Group that Lonnie and I co-founded within the Byrd Polar Research Center. We then donated the rest ($225,000) to another OSU fund (also established in 2003) called the Ice Core Salvage Fund. This fund supports immediate needs of our group to collect ice cores from critical and threatened ice fields around the world when Federal grant funds are not available or are limited and time is critical. This fund ensures the maintenance of our laboratories and the freezers (-30 degree F) where the ice cores are permanently stored for future analyses. For example, if the ice fields that have existed on Kilimanjaro for the last 11,700 years disappear by 2020 (as we have predicted they will), the only ice from Kilimanjaro that will be available...
for future analytical studies will be housed in the freezers at OSU's Byrd Polar Research Center."

For further information on the Dan David Foundation visit www.dandavidprize.org. The complete inscription for Ellen and Lonnie is presented later in this GeoSpectrum08.

Ellen Mosley-Thompson and Lonnie were also honored at a special Alumni Awards event, being recognized by the 2008 Alumni Association Medalist Award, “the single highest honor accorded by The Ohio State University Alumni Association”. Given “for national or international career achievement, it is presented to alumni who have gained national or international distinction as outstanding exponents of a chosen field or profession and who have brought extraordinary credit to the University and significant benefit to humankind. Only one such award is given annually, and Ellen-Lonnie are the first dual honorees!! The award was presented by Archie Griffin; his words appear in the Award Inscription section, later in this GeoSpectrum08.

Two geographers were selected for membership in the US National Academy of Sciences in 2008 – Luc Anselin, Director and Foundation Professor of Geographical Sciences at Arizona State University, and Peter Haggett, Senior Research Fellow at the University of Bristol UK, as a Foreign Associate Fellow. While neither are Ohio State faculty nor former students (though Luc is a Former Faculty), we all benefit when such an enormously high honor is given to a geographer. So, congratulations Luc and Peter – and thanks.

Undergraduate Kudos:

Rachel Mauk had a NASA internship in summer 2007 studying satellite data and snow depth. She also was featured in the April 1 2008 issue of the Lantern, the OSU Student Newspaper. Rachel commented, “It's was really interesting to see what government research is like. I had this strong suspicion that government research is different from academic research, and (in many ways) it is.” Rachel credits geography with her current path, though she began her tenure at OSU as a physics major.

Rachel will be attending graduate school at Ohio State, in our Atmospheric Science Program. In regard to this, she received a University Distinguished Graduate Fellowship for first and last years of graduate work, an Ohio Board of Regents Graduate Fellowship, and an American Meteorological Society Graduate Fellowship.

The complete Lantern story on Rachel can be found in later in this GeoSpectrum08 in the Events and Markers section.

New Program: GSDA

We now have a new graduate interdisciplinary specialization in Geospatial Data and Analysis (GSDA) through the Departments of Geography and Statistics, beginning Autumn 2007. This is not a degree program, but one that allows students in such programs to obtain certification on their transcripts. It is motivated by the fact that research in the physical, environmental, and earth sciences requires a diverse set of technical skills involving the collection, storage, processing, and analysis of spatial data; and that scientists possessing these interdisciplinary technical skills are becoming indispensable members of research teams studying complex problems of global significance. Its goal is to streamline students' training in various aspects of geospatial technology and, consequently, improve the quality of research they perform. In addition courses in the areas of geographic information systems, spatial statistics, and remote sensing, GSDA carries on a seminar series, the first of which was given in November 2007 by Ron Li, Professor of OSU’s Civil and Environmental Engineering and Geodetic Science. Departments with students participating in GSDA include Geodetic Science, City and Regional Planning, Earth Science, and Geography.

New Home Page

The next time you point your browser to the department webpage to catch up on the latest
events, news, or research, you may ask, "did I mistype the address?" No! **Welcome to our new webpage!** The goal of this overhaul is to more vividly reflect what OSU geography is all about. For starters, we have a new address, [http://www.geography.osu.edu](http://www.geography.osu.edu). However, the redesign of our website, completed by Cochran Group and Huber and Company of Columbus, also features striking graphics, a dynamic interface, intuitive navigation, and fresh content. Take a look at the new Student/Faculty Spotlight or Testimonials From Alumni. See what our various clubs and groups are doing or catch-up on current research. If you haven’t visited our page in a while, check it out! Suggestions or comments? We’d love to hear from you. Please e-mail Phil Birnie, our webmaster, at geog_webmaster@osu.edu.

**LAB Comment:** Do have a look!! The new home page is really different, exciting, and dynamic. A good job done by all.

**New Initiative: Denney Hall Observatory**

Twenty years ago (1987) our Climate and Atmospheric Studies group placed a set of weather instruments atop Denney Hall. Having become dysfunctional, Jim DeGrand set about to resuscitate them in the late 1990s, and did so successfully by 2004. Then, in 2007, Jason Box got the idea of reinvigorating the instrumentation through a course, *Microclimatological Field Methods and Data Analysis*. The result can be seen at [polarmet35.mps.ohio-state.edu/solar/](http://polarmet35.mps.ohio-state.edu/solar/). Working with students and assistance from Green Energy Ohio and Buckeye Power, instruments were installed that measure aspects such as solar and longwave radiation, looking towards the potential of solar power for Ohio. The initiative is dubbed as Central Ohio Solar Climatology Research Program. Check out the web site – aside from graphs showing variation in radiation throughout the day or a longer period of time, there are some great photos of the instruments, students working, OSU as seen from the top of Denney Hall, etc. In response to this initiative, Morton O’Kelly said “I am very pleased to see the involvement of undergraduates and partnership with industry. Thanks also to the tech office.”

**New Community Outreach Course**

Ola Ahlqvist (faculty) and Tim Hawthorne (graduate student, advisor Mei-Po Kwan) are developing *Elements of Cartography: Serving the Community with Cartography* (Geography 580S), a service learning course to be first taught in Winter 2008. Students will learn cartography and map design elements, including the use of GIS software for basic cartographic purposes and apply this knowledge to a local real world project for a an underserved, lower socio-economic status neighborhood. Students will engage with a local community partner, the African American and African Studies Community Extension Center, in a mutually beneficial collaboration involving action-oriented research. Through this process, students will learn about the community and the Center will learn how maps can benefit the community. This community mapping project will support neighborhood regeneration with its focus on community assets, capabilities, and abilities. Tim an Ola plan to revamp our traditional Elements of Cartography, including the creation of new lab and fieldwork materials. Further, this university-community partnership will facilitate Tim's dissertation research on access to quality health care in selected Columbus neighborhoods. Support will come from a 2008 OSU Outreach and Engagement Award as a University/Community Service-Learning Grant for Course Development and Enhancement.

**Successful Graduate Student Recruitment Weekend Continues**

Our fourth annual department recruitment weekend was held in March 2008. The department again welcomed a group of outstanding potential graduate students to visit with faculty, staff, students and friends of OSU Geography. The recruitment weekend serves as an important showcase, and even starts to build a cohesive student cohort before their pictures are posted outside the Geography office! We had seven attendees. All reported that the weekend was extremely helpful and that they enjoyed their OSU visit.
The tradition that the weekend is well-stocked with food continued -- Panera breakfast and Marc Auerbach brewed coffee in the morning, thick squares of Adriatico’s for lunch, and a huge spread of Benevolence Café vegetarian dishes and City Barbecue for the dinnertime carnivores.

Throughout the day, our visitors had the opportunity to meet with students and faculty with similar research interests in both one-on-one and group settings. Nurcan Atalan-Helieke, Karin Bumbaco, Phil Birnie, and Jeff Olson presented their ongoing research projects, demonstrating the diversity and quality of work taking place in the department. The afternoon included a trip to Brennen’s for a Q&A coffee session, outside, on a beautiful day with a few current students.

On Saturday, our visitors joined Michael Ewers for a campus tour. Miraculously, no one had warned our guests about the dangers of riding in a car driven by Jeff Olson, so some with late departures took a tour of the city and lunch at North Market.

Special thanks go to Emily Rupp for assisting with food, transportation, and organization; Marc Auerbach, Grey Evenson, and Jessica Menza for setting up breakfast; Suzanna Klaf and Delphine Ancien for helping clean after dinner, and all other grad student volunteers that made the weekend run so well. Also, the weekend would not have been possible without the patience and support from Diane Carducci, Stephanie Max., and Maggie Merry.

LAB Comment: As in every year held, the recruiting weekend was indeed highly successful, both in attracting quality students, but also and perhaps equally important, in galvanizing existing students, staff, and faculty, embellishing our already great sense of community. The event is largely organized by graduate students. A particularly important aspect of the event is grads and visitors interacting by themselves, thus providing an opportunity for socializing between (and within) the present and future. Nice Going All!!

Our Undergraduate Program

The undergraduate program of Ohio State overall continues to set yearly records, and this definitely benefits Geography. Concerning the Freshmen class of 2007, for example, 92.4% returned for their second year, a record retention number! In addition, the retention gap between majority and minority students is nearly closed: 89.3% of African American freshmen and 89.3% of Hispanic freshmen returned for their second year, both all-time highs. And once again, this year's freshman class is the best-prepared to ever enter the university.

Regarding geography, our undergraduate advisor Rick McClish says the following – It has been a rather busy year. The number of majors and minors is consistent and recent data indicates that more incoming freshmen are intending to major in Geography than in the past (a 50% increase!) This is very good news. The number of our majors in the Honors program is 11%. The distribution of our students among the four specializations is also steady – approximately 1/3 Urban and Regional, 1/3 Atmospheric and Climatic Studies, 1/5 Cartography and GIS, and 1/10 People, Society, and Environment.

As mentioned in GeoSpectrum 2007, we spent the last year reviewing our curriculum and have submitted proposals for modifications in all four areas of the major. The results of our extensive research helped us understand that many of our newer faculty members are available for increased teaching loads – something our students and future students will benefit from greatly. This allows us to keep up with current developments across the discipline and give our students every competitive advantage for their pursuits in academia, private sector employment, or public sector service. Not only were faculty members extremely helpful in this endeavor, but our students played a significant role in this process as well. Thanks to all involved! We will keep you posted on the proposals, and how they will impact our department in a positive way as it moves through the approval/revision process.

The Geography Club built on the success of the previous year. In fact they had such a high level of excitement about our field they developed a
presentation to demonstrate the diversity and myriad applications of Geography in our world. The presentation is aimed at current undecided and rededicating OSU students, high school, and middle school students. We hope to continue with this effort and build on its success in the future.

Our Meteorology Club demonstrated once again how effective and accomplished our undergraduate population is with another innovative and leading-edge student sponsored Severe Weather Symposium in April. The Club is not only a great community building group within our department; it is also an excellent recruiting tool for prospective students. Knowing that we are a tight knit community helps students realize that choosing Ohio State Geography is the right choice.

One last thought. Identifying concrete avenues for internship and job placement is critical for the professional development of our students. If you are aware of potential internships or jobs for our students please contact me with the relevant information – our students will be very grateful! And this also will advance our efforts to develop an alumni network for current OSU students and future graduates. My direct phone number is 614-292-3553 and my e-mail is mcclish.10@osu.edu. I look forward to hearing from you.

Denman Undergraduate Research Forum

The Denman Undergraduate Research Forum was created in 1996 with the purpose of encouraging and highlighting research by undergraduates, and participation has grown steadily over the years. The Forum is a cooperative effort of OSU’s Honors and Scholars Center, Office of Undergraduate Research, Office of Research, and Office of University Development. The forum is supported by Emeritus University Foundation Board member and Ohio State alumni Richard and Martha Denman of Rancho Santa Fe, California, as well as various corporate and individual donors.

The 13th annual Denman Undergraduate Research Forum took place on Wednesday May 13 2007 in the Recreation and Physical Activity Center (RPAC), with 415 students participating in 374 projects. Students are judged by faculty, corporate, and external personnel.

The Forum is not simply “show and tell time”. It is preceded by the student’s abstract, which must be approved by the Denman Faculty Committee, and by workshops on topics such as “Creating a Winning Poster” and “For Credit or Money: Using Your Resources for Research”. Also, in Social and Behavioral Sciences we hold a mock presentation, several days prior to the Forum, in which the student posters are viewed and critiqued by faculty members. In short, the Denman is a unique and meaningful learning experience for our undergraduate students.

Geography is a regular participant. In 2008 three of our majors participated.

Erica Harris: Bathymetric Inversion from Shore-Based Video Imagery; Advisors, Bryan Mark (Geography) and Tom Lippmann (Civil, Environmental Engineering and Geodetic Science). Erica graduated in Spring ’08 and is currently a graduate student at Oregon State University. She was active in the Geography Club and visited Australia in Summer ’06. Erica, like all our Denman contestants, knows that “every geographer has a compulsion to travel.” She also was the first undergrad to attend our Great Basin research expedition in 2006.

Amanda Kass: Neoliberal Nigeria, the United States, and Oil: Linking Production and Consumption; Advisor Joel Wainwright. After graduating in June ’08, Amanda has been reading, traveling, and mountain climbing. She plans to apply for graduate programs in Geography this Autumn and pursue a PhD beginning Fall 2009.

Rachel Mauk, Advisor Jay Hobgood, also participated. The Department is very proud of these students and of our ongoing participation in undergraduate research endeavors. It is an essential element of what we do.
Visiting Scholars

Rafael Figueiredo is a PhD student at the Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio) Brazil. He joined us in September 2008 to spend one year working on dissertation research with Morton O’Kelly. Rafael is an engineer who received his Masters in Transportation and Logistics. His PhD work is in Production Engineering at the same university. Rafael has been focusing on logistic systems, especially in optimizing air transport networks. Although an engineer, Rafael is very interested in many topics related to geography such as the application of geographical concepts to transport systems, geographical studies of facility location, GIS and economic development. One of his aims is to understand hub-and-spoke network systems in order to make a real world application in South America.

Jennifer Rice (MA ’05, advisor Paul Robbins) rejoined OSU Geography this year as a research assistant for a collaborative research project involving Kendra McSweeney, Tom Wait (OSU, Ecology), and Paul Robbins (University of Arizona, Geography). Currently a PhD candidate in Geography at the University of Arizona, Jenn was working with Kendra on a household survey of villagers near the Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary in India. This is a continuation of an NSF funded project, "Land-Use Politics, Disturbance, and Biodiversity in the Indian Aravalli."

Udaya Sharma visited the Geography Department during September 2007 as the guest of Bryan Mark. This included an ad hoc lecture “Bridging Western Science and Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge: What Works and What Doesn’t.” Dr. Sharma is Chairman of the Resource Development Initiative Center (RDIC), an NGO in Kathmandu Nepal, and recently retired from being Professor at the Institute of Management, Tribhuvan University. His expertise is varied, having researched and taught widely on themes of social forestry, aging, gender equality, and sustainable development in Nepal. This particular theme was one he was invited to present recently at the ESA/SEC meeting in California. Bryan noted “I think he embodies a unique social-environmental scholarship.” He received his MS in Resource economics at the University of Oregon in 1981, and a PhD in management at the University of Texas in 1990. As professor of management at Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu from 1985-2007, Dr. Sharma developed varied research interests ranging from planning and management, natural resource institutions, to gender issues such as women and environment, publishing over 50 scientific papers, books, and book chapters. In 1980 he helped form the voluntary grass-roots Resource Development Initiative Center (RDIC) aimed at equipping people with knowledge, training and micro-financing to reduce poverty. For over two decades, he has been actively involved in community forestry using indigenous knowledge in nurturing, managing and attempting to restore the ecology and improve the livelihoods of rural people.

Fan Xia joined us in September 2007 from Wuhan University China, where she is pursuing a PhD in Land Resource Management. Fan’s research focuses on remote sensing and land-use/land-cover change. In May 2007, Fan was selected by the Visiting Doctoral Students Program of the China Scholarship Council (CSC) to do research at OSU for one year. Her faculty sponsor is Desheng Liu. During her visit, Fan has primarily worked with Desheng on dissertation research related to object-based image classification methods using high spatial resolution imagery. Thus far, one research paper has been completed and another is in preparation. Fan has returned to China and expects to finish her PhD program in 2009, and then find a faculty position in a Chinese university. Shortly before leaving, she said “The one year experience in OSU Geography has been so helpful to my PhD dissertation. I really learned a lot and enjoyed my life here. I want to thank everyone for their help and support in the last one year."

New and Departing Faculty

Kenneth Madsen (PhD 2005, Arizona State University) joined OSU Geography in 2008 to teach at our Newark Campus. Kenneth has research and teaching interests in cultural and
regional geography with an emphasis on the US-Mexico borderlands. In particular, he has focused on the Arizona-Sonora region where he completed his dissertation on the international border’s impact on the indigenous Tohono O’odham. As a result of working with Native American groups, Kenneth also has an active interest in research accessibility, and his most recent publication "Indigenous Research, Publishing, and Intellectual Property" will come out in the next issue of the American Indian Culture and Research Journal. Prior to arriving at Ohio State, Kenneth was an instructor and coordinator of distance education at Tohono O’odham Community College in Sells Arizona. He comes to Ohio with his wife, Patricia Lazo, and their three-year old son, Severino.

Alan Murray joined the Arizona State University School of Geographical Sciences in Summer 2008. During his time at Ohio State, moving from Assistant to Full Professor, Alan made a tremendous difference in our program. He combined methodology with a broad range of substantive issues in a way that few do; he respected and interacted well with the full range of departmental personnel, thus contributing to our internal harmony; he was exceptionally effective in mentoring graduate students, generally leading to at least one published article and completion of the degree; and he was (is) enormously productive. During his tenure at Ohio State, Alan was the Editor of Geographical Analysis and the Director of the Center for Urban and Regional Analysis (CURA), taking both to a new plateau. Larry especially enjoyed the several years that Alan and Paul Robbins had adjacent offices, two very different professional portfolios, but continually interacting, stimulating one another, and with both doors open, enabling Larry to stand in the hallway and talk simultaneously to both – fun times!! Alan, like Paul, contributed a special dynamic to the department. We wish them well in their new homes – still somewhat adjacent to one another in the State of Arizona, one in Tucson, the other in Tempe!!

Office and Technical Staff Changes

There have been significant changes over the past year. Maggie Merry is our new Fiscal and Human Resources Officer. Stephanie Max has moved from CURA to the main geography office, sharing her time between the two, Clarence Pauley, who Maggie brought from the Office of the Provost, was our new Student Associate until Autumn 2008, when finishing his course work and graduating took priority!, Lynn Lyons has left us for Engineering, and Diane Carducci is enjoying her tenth year as a part of our community!! For more on these people, and others, see Staff under Activity Updates, later in this GeoSpectrum08

Incoming Graduate Students

The Department welcomed the following students who entered the program for the 2007-2008 academic year.

Jessica Barnes
Wei Chen
Grey Evenson
Meng Guo
Kyung-In Huh
Joshua Jankot
Shiguang Jiang
Robert Klein
Caroline Larsen
Seung-Ok Lee
Jessica Menza
Johnathan Rush
Jaclyn Sineri
Daniel Surber
Kristin Walls
Sarah Wright
Bria Youderian
Yibo Zhang

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George Washington University
Peking University
St. Olaf College
North Carolina State
Seoul National University
Colgate
University of Oklahoma
Ball State
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical Univ
Kent State
Michigan State
University of Michigan
Peking University

The Department welcomed the following students who entered the program for the 2008-2009 academic year.

Thomas Ballinger
Sayoni Bose
Shanshan Cai
David Decker
Erik Fraza
Christopher Hartmann
Richard Healy
Jessica Human
Justine Law
Craig Lewis
Jun Li
Kent State University
University of Calcutta
Lehigh University
Ohio State University
Central Michigan University
Xavier University
Ohio State University
University of South Florida
Allegheny College
Buffalo State University
Zhejiang University
Recent Bachelor’s Degree Recipients

Summer 2007
Nicholas Booth         Kristin Nicole Deam
Paul Michael Grunenberg  Lindsay Marie Snyder
Christopher Thomas McIntyre  Kathryn Rose Wise

Autumn 2007
Todd Andrew Albright    Joel David Alfater
Amber Joy Groeting      Grover Clay Johnson
Hemali Anil Joshi       Timothy James Kennedy
Christopher Matthew Lintala  Jane Ellen McKay
Jordan R Mederer         Timothy Richard O’Neal
Ryan Joseph Rodovej      Stephen David Subleski
Mark Steven Sturm        Nicholas James Wade

Winter 2008
Zachary Alan Brenner  Akkison Anne Chinchar
Ann Catherine Dennewitz Richard Daniel Hentz
Ryan Michael Janosko   Michael Robert Lanning
Marc Alan McKinnie     Andrew Martin Roy
Daniel Jacob Spinks    Joseph David Strubhar
Daniel Adam Trick      Timothy A Walker
Sarah Grace Wichman

Spring 2008
Russell Jay Benson    Eric Michael Brown
Kevin Carl Brown      Catherine Grace Caudill
Anthony B Cuevas    David T Decker
Emily Kay Ellis H    Paul Joseph Gesicki, Jr.
Emma Rose Gorman     Andrew Gotlieb
David Chumu Guo H    Alex Matthew Harnocz H
Erica Lynn Harris H  Brett Stephen Hartley
Christopher Adam House
Amanda Emma Kass H
Michael David Koba    Francois Salvador Lamini
Whitney Diana Laurien    Jason Eric Ledbetter
Steven Luebbers Levine Devin Andrew Long
Gina Louise Margraf    Joseph M Marulli
Rachel Grant Mauk H    Kyle David McCrea
Daniel McFarland    Andrew Buck Michael
Srisubrahman Nandula
Allison Mary Schmitz
Brendan Edward Smith
Mark Allen Steiner
Joshua James Stockdale

Recent Master’s Degree Recipients

Marc Auerbach (Su ’08), Managing Primitive Accumulation: Land Reform, Development and the State in Contemporary Mexico, advisor Kevin Cox, continuing on for PhD at Ohio State.

Karin Bumbaco (Su ’08), Seasonal and Diurnal Variations in Hydrometeorological Variables in an Andean Mountain Environment and Comparison to the NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis Data, advisor Bryan Mark. Karin just accepted a job as an Assistant State Climatologist for Washington State, and begins work in November at University of Washington.

Nick Crane (Su ’08), Rethinking ‘Noncapitalist Spaces’ as Entangled Spaces of Practice: The Emergence of ’Punk Houses’ Through Practices of Self-Formation and Encounters with Difference, advisor Nancy Ettlinger, plans to travel next year and then return to the
department to begin his PhD program.

**Michael Davis** (Su ’08), Analysis of United States Mean Seasonal Air Temperatures, advisor **Jeff Rogers**, will continue at OSU for PhD.

**Alex Gjerovski** (Au ’07), Community Organizations Coping with Neoliberalism: A Case-Study of the Southeast Detroit Business Association, advisor **Nancy Ettlinger**

**Gabriela Maldonado** (Sp ’08), Using Geographically Weighted Regression to Explore the Relationship Between Late-Stage Diagnosis of Breast Cancer and Accessibility to Breast Cancer Screening Centers in the Chicago Metropolitan Region, advisor **Mei-Po Kwan**, after traveling in South America for about three weeks, she joined ESRI as a Geospatial Database Analyst in Vienna Virginia.

**Todd Mechling** (Sp’08), Retail Restructuring in Rural America: Commonalities and Differences in the Retail Sector in a Changing Rural Economy, advisor **Darla Munroe**, currently interviewing for a position in applied retail analysis.

**Scott Reinemann** (Su’08), A Chironomid-Based Paleolimnological Study of Recent and Mid-Holocene Changes in Mean July Air Temperature in the Great Basin, Nevada, USA, advisor **David Porinchu**, continuing on for Ph.D. at Ohio State.

**Emily Rupp** (Sp ’08) Embodying Malaria: Replacing the Body, Environment, and Culture in Northern Ghana’s Malaria Definitions, advisor **Becky Mansfield**. Emily is taking the summer off, and is hoping this fall to do some short-term contract work with an international development agency, such as the World Health Organization, on issues related to malaria. She plans to return to OSU in Winter to start work on her PhD.

**Ben Spigel** (Sp ’08), The Geographies of Academic Knowledge Exchange, advisor **Ed Malecki**, continuing PhD study in Geography at the University of Toronto.

**Dan Steinhoff** (Wi ’08), Cyclone Formation Mechanisms Along the Coast of Adelie Land, East Antarctica, advisor **David Bromwich**, continuing for PhD under the direction of David.

**Mark Sundermeier** (Sp ’08), Tourism in Exurban Postindustrial Forests in Appalachia, advisor **Darla Munroe**, currently interviewing for a position in applied retail analysis.

**Recent PhD Recipients**

**Delphine Ancien** (Su ’08), Global City Theory in Question: The Case of London and the Logics of Capital, advisor **Kevin Cox**, Post-Doctoral Researcher with the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis, National University of Ireland in Maynooth.

**Kevin Cox Comment: Alistair Frazier** is a Lecturer there and **Veronica Crossa** has a position in the Department of Geography at University College Dublin -- So one might talk about **Ohio State, Ireland branch**.

**Annemarie Bodaar** (Su ’08), Cities and the “Multicultural State”: Immigration, Mutliethnic Neighborhoods, and the Socio-Spatial Negotiation of Policy in the Netherlands, advisors **Mei-Po Kwan** and **Eugene McCann**, policy analyst for the city of The Hague Netherlands, working on multiculturalism and related policy issues.

**Eric Boschmann** (Su ’08), Getting to Work: A Mixed Methods Analysis of Metropolitan Area Working Poor Employment Access, advisor **Mei-Po Kwan**, Assistant Professor, University of Denver Geography.

**Ho-Seop Cha** (Su ’08), Enhancing Equity in Public Transportation Using Geographic Information Systems and Spatial Optimization, advisor **Alan Murray**, Instructor in Geography, University of Central Missouri

**Johanna Haas** (Wi ’08), Law and Property in the Mountains: A Political Economy of Resource Land in the Appalachian Coalfields., advisor **Becky Mansfield**, Assistant Professor of
Geography at Illinois State.

**Hyun Kim** (Su ’08), Reliable P-Hub Location Problems and Protection Models for Hub Network Design, advisor **Morton O’Kelly**, Instructor and Director of GIS Certificate Program, Department of Geography, University of South Florida.

**Luks Jeawetchasil** (Su ’08), Gender Roles in Chauffeurin Children to School in the Portland Metropolitan Area, advisor **Mei-Po Kwan**.


**Jae Yong Lee** (Sp ’08), Socio-Spatial Exclusion Based on Human Activities and Social Networks in Space-Time: A Case Study of Koreans in Columbus Ohio, advisor **Mei-Po Kwan**, Research Scientist, Korean Research Institute for Human Settlements.

**Ron McChesney** (Sp ’08), A Three-Scale Metropolitan Change Model, advisor **Morton O’Kelly**, independent geographer working as a consultant in Central Ohio.

**Hu Wei** (Wi ’08), Solving Continuous Space Location Problem, advisor **Alan Murray**, Research Statistician, General Motors.

**Lijia Wei** (Su ’08), Statistical Analysis of the Atmospheric Sulfate History Recorded in Greenland Ice Cores, advisor **Ellen Mosley-Thompson**, currently works for HCR Manor Care in Toledo Ohio as a Senior Research and Evaluation Analyst in their Operations Engineering And Outcomes Management Group.

**Julie Weinert** (Sp ’08), The Influence of Local Gender Relationships on Globalization: Ecotourism in Ecuador, advisor **Kendra McSweeney**, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography and Environmental Resources, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

**Hyejin Yoon** (Sp ’08), The Animation Industry: Technological Changes, Production Challenges, and Global Shifts, advisor **Ed Malecki**.

**DONORS: THANKS! THANKS! THANKS!**
(Gifts from January 1 2007 thru September 30 2008)

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1 Cum Laude Club Member
2 Dean’s Circle Member
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You Make a Difference:
Initiatives Enabled by YOUR Contributions

Several programs have been introduced over the past decade and others are in various stages of development. Contributions from alumni, faculty, and friends of Geography are central to carrying these out. In all these instances, we are very pleased to have created a fitting memory of the person honored, the values each embraces, the enormous legacy each has left this department, and their life overall as a geographer and person.

One formal source of support is the Edward J. "Ned" Taaffe Memorial Fund Endowment of The Ohio State University. There are 60+ donors thus far, primarily former students and fellow professionals throughout Geography. This contributes to supporting the Edward J. Taaffe Colloquium Series, as the Arthur J. Robinson Endowment contributes to supporting the Arthur J. Robinson Colloquium Series, both described below. Essential to, and undergirding, both of these colloquia and our full range of visiting speakers, is the John E. Nelson Colloquium Endowment, the catalyst of our enormously influential and successful speakers program, and for which we are very grateful.

In 2003 we also established the Herbert and Dorothy Joseph Fenburr Scholarship and the E. Willard and Ruby S. Miller Fellowship Endowments. The latter provides support for our annual award to an outstanding graduate student, designated as the E. Willard and Ruby S. Miller Fellow.

In 2004 the Lawrence A. Brown Faculty Fellow in Geography Endowment was established. This provides funds that enable Fellows to enhance their professional standing -- by, for example, greater participation in professional meetings; pilot research leading to a larger project; travel related thereto; purchasing data, software, or services; and developing innovative classroom techniques. The award targets junior faculty, recognizes individual excellence and promise, and is given on a rotating basis. The program was initiated in Spring 2005 with Kendra McSweeney designated as the first Faculty Fellow; in 2006 Jason Box became the second; and in 2007 Bryan Mark and Darla Munro were named.

In 2007 two new endowments were established. The Dr. Martha L. Corry Faculty Fellow is targeted to senior faculty (thus complementing the Lawrence A. Brown Faculty Fellow targeted to junior faculty) who have a high professional profile and senior rank with the intent that they make a significant difference in the professional development of the Faculty Fellow and in the visibility of OSU Geography. The recognition is established to honor Martha’s pioneering record and amplify it through others. Mei-Po Kwan was designated as the first Dr. Martha L. Corry Faculty Fellow. The award is to be given periodically.

In 2007 we also established the Robert M. Thomas Graduate Fellow Endowment also was established in 2007. This is used to recognize a distinguished graduate student in the Department or to attract such students. In addition to high professional promise, special consideration is given to students with an interest in Economic Geography or the impact of Geography on Economic Development. It is anticipated that such appointment as a Graduate Fellow will make a significant difference in the professional development of the student and in the visibility of the Department of Geography. “Bob” Thomas received his BS and BA in 1949. It was his wish that this endowment memorialize Professor Alfred J. Wright (OSU faculty 1928-1964) as an outstanding scholar, excellent teacher and tireless supporter of student activities. Bob himself was well known in Coshocton Ohio for his dedication to community development and his passion for promoting economic growth. The Robert Max (“Bob”) Thomas Graduate Fellow Endowment, then, is an ongoing recognition of his life’s work in community development, an honor to all he has given, and represents an opportunity to amplify it through others. The initial award will be given in 2008-09.

In 2008, yet another significant Endowment was established by Robert Reuschle (BS, Business Administration 1949) and his wife Mary (BS
Business Administration 1950). This will provide the Bob and Mary Reusché Chair in Geography. They believe that geography is vitally important for bringing together the social sciences and physical aspects of environmental studies, with a view towards increasing our understanding of human impacts on the environment throughout the world, and that geography can play a key integrative role in this critical area of study. After a long and successful career in finance, Bob and Mary became full-time volunteers and supporters of a number of human service organizations providing housing, health care, and human services for the most vulnerable in our society. They also committed their energies, leadership, and personal support to improving the quality of higher education at Ohio State in the areas of humanities, business, and medicine. Now, they are turning their attention to the field of geography. We welcome Bob and Mary to our community.

2008 also saw a generous endowment from T.R. Lakshmanan (OSU PhD ’65, HonDSC ’06, advisor Guy-Harold Smith) and Lata Chatterjee (Johns Hopkins PhD ’73). Laksh is known world-wide for his work in transportation, energy, environmental, housing, and regional planning issues. He is an international expert on infrastructures, especially energy and transportation, in settings that range from North America to developing countries. Lata is internationally known for her work on housing analysis and policy, urban and regional development, economic analysis of vulnerability and poverty issues in the developing world including environmental issues, gender, and local governance. The T.R. Lakshmanan and Lata R. Chatterjee Graduate Fellow in Geography is an ongoing recognition of their life’s work in regional development, bettering the lives of many, and addressing issues of the Global South — an honor to all they have given and accomplished – and an opportunity to amplify it through others. The award will recognize a distinguished PhD student in Geography who is either from the Global South (Asia, Africa, or Latin America) or carrying out research on the Global South; professionally focused on issues of benefit to humanity; and with demonstrated professional promise. It is anticipated that appointment as a T.R. Lakshmanan and Lata R. Chatterjee Graduate Fellow will make a significant difference in the professional development of the student and in the visibility of the Department of Geography. The initial award will be given in 2008-09.

Now to specific activities supported by these and other funds. The Edward J. Taaffe and Arthur H. Robinson Colloquium Series are two-day marquee events that feature a highly eminent professional who brings a broad perspective, often one different from our own. Each Taaffe-Robinson lecture is followed by a reception in the gallery of Derby Hall. An especially important aspect of the Taaffe, Robinson, and other visiting speaker events is the opportunity for students to interact personally with world-class professionals. Our guests include National Academy of Science members, major officers of professional organizations, and major decision makers in the direction of science and science policy -- persons who affect educational direction in all settings.

Another program supported by contributions is our John N. Rayner Dissertation Foundation Award. In pursuing the PhD, defining a dissertation topic is one of the most difficult tasks, and the difficulty is compounded by the fact that financial support for this phase is rarely available. Many programs support dissertation research itself, but virtually none support building the foundation that precedes a good dissertation. This is the purpose, then, of the John N. Rayner Award. In 2006-08 we supported ten students for whom laying the appropriate foundation involved foreign travel -- to China, Costa Rica, England, India, Jamaica, Peru, Panama, Russia, United Arab Emirates, and Zambia. These experiences are a highly significant dimension of our graduate program, as indicated in the Reports From The Field section, later in this GeoSpectrum08. Hence, the Rayner Dissertation Foundation Program pays off handsomely in professional development and personal maturation -- and it places us at the forefront of graduate education.

Related to the Dissertation Foundation Award, Professional Experience Grants partially supported approximately 44 graduate students for presenting a professional paper at meetings of the
Association of American Geographers and other professional venues. And, as a new event in 2008, four undergraduates also were supported! As a result, Ohio State Geography has more students attending the AAG meeting than any other graduate program an A-1 professionalizing experience that also indicates to others the vitality of our professional endeavor.

Another initiative made possible by contributions and endowments mentioned above is a Laboratory Facilities Enhancement Program. Initiated in 2003, this allows us to continually upgrade our instructional and research facilities, especially in terms of computer hardware and software -- an ongoing need in that the lifetime of equipment is no more than four years (!!), and often less in that cutting edge software demands increasingly sophisticated machines. For the 2003-04 academic year, we upgraded our 0140 GIS Instructional Laboratory by increasing the number of seats from 35 to 50, replacing PCs and other equipment with the state-of-the-art, and reconfiguring PCs and monitors so that students have more desk space for note-taking, writing, etc; and we are doing this again for 2008-09! A biogeography laboratory (IPL) also has been established, as described later in this GeoSpectrum08, in Derby 0110, and we did a major upgrade in the audio-visual capability of our teaching spaces Derby 0140, 1080, and 1116. This resulted in completely integrated sound and visual systems, high intensity projection devices, and DVD/tape capability for movies, DVDs, and similar instructional material which are often in demand but were difficult to use in the past. In 2005-06, we launched yet another new facility in Derby 0126, focusing especially on urban-regional analysis and the home of an expanded CURA that houses staff, post-docs, graduate students, and provide spaces for meetings and working groups.

The benefit of these facility enhancements to undergraduates, graduates, and faculty is enormous, and moving towards a formal Laboratory Endowment is essential if we are to maintain the very best instructional programs and cutting edge research. In this regard, we would like to be able to name our 0140 GIS Instructional Laboratory, just as we did earlier for our Guy-Harold Smith and Eugene Van Cleef spaces.

Donated funds also enabled the Ninth Annual Ohio Severe Weather Symposium, reported later in this GeoSpectrum08.

In addition to these larger-scale programs, your contributions help many other vitally important undertakings. At the start of each academic year, for example, we hold a welcome reception where new and old students, graduates and undergraduates, staff and faculty informally mix, get to know one another, and establish an esprit de corps for the coming year. Also important are field trips and guest speakers for our Undergraduate Geography and Meteorology Clubs.

These programs, events, and activities, and countless others that occur on an ad hoc basis add -- to the ambiance and quality of life in the department -- to achievements, educational experiences, and success of students and faculty -- to recognition within and outside the university.

Yes, YOU Make a Difference.

Martha Corry
Educator Making A Difference

When Larry last visited, Martha (BA ’41) showed him the following, a concrete tribute to her inspiration for others. Gail Smith is a former student and they happened to meet at an American Association of University Women luncheon. Gail sent the following e-mail and wrote a story for the Venice Views publication.

Dr. Corry -- It was an honor and a pleasure to meet you again at the AAUW luncheon. You were one of my role models. You were and are an inspiration to me. My love of maps, of travel and of adventure began, in large part, in your classroom. Your amazing intellect, your courageous nature and your great spirit are locked in my memory and are goals I aspire to emulate to this day. Bravo to a wonderful educator. I hope to visit with you again in 2008. Thank you again for helping me, at 19 years old, to gain awareness and the
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beginning of clarity.

Meeting Dr. Corry

Having just arrived from Alaska this summer, my friend Jo Bellett made sure one of my first decisions was to join the Venice branch of AAUW. I have thoroughly enjoyed my membership in this wonderful organization thus far. The decision also led to a wonderful encounter. At the lovely holiday party at the Venice Yacht Club, I was seated next to a woman I thought I did not know. However, after a series of questions based on the college information on our IDs, I discovered, to my delight, that I was seated next to Dr. Marti Corry. I had the great luck to be a student in Dr. Corry’s class in college in the 60s and I have never forgotten the experience. It was “Geography of Russia”, a subject I knew little about. Dr. Corry made the information come alive for me. She was an extraordinary educator and a great influence in my life. Dr. Corry taught me more than just geography. She taught me that maps are treasures in and of themselves. She opened the “door” to an awareness of the world beyond our own country. She lit the flame in me that has led to a lifelong passion for travel and a desire to learn all that I can about other countries and cultures. I never got to tell her what a great influence she had on my life until AAUW brought us together again! I truly hope that through the fine efforts of this organization, we can enable other young students to encounter great teachers like Dr. Corry.

ACTIVITY UP-DATES

Former + Current Faculty, Post Doctorates

John Arnfield wrote on 6/2/08 -- Joan and I attended a wedding in Suffolk on Saturday. The groom was the son of Joan's best friend from elementary school (and earlier) in the Islington district of London. I expected to know no-one at the event, other than the friend and her husband who I had met a couple of times. Imagine my surprise, then, when I spied across the room none other but Jo Machin. Master's degree recipient from OSU-Geography in 2001 (advisor Eugene McCann). It turns out that the bride went to the University of Reading with Jo. We had a chat (despite the band!). Jo seems well settled. She is a research officer with the Institute of Volunteering Research and was married herself just three weeks ago, to a chap called Adam who she knew at Reading. Reminiscences were exchanged and Jo sends her regards to all those she knew at OSU. A very pleasant outcome of a highly improbable event!

LAB Comment: Always good to hear John’s sense of humor, thoughts, and observations on the world!!

Kevin Cox, together with Murray Low (PhD ’93, advisor Kevin Cox) and Jennifer Robinson are the editor of a recently published book, The SAGE Handbook of Political Geography. It “provides a highly contextualized and systematic overview of the latest thinking and research. Edited by key scholars, with international contributions from acknowledged authorities on the relevant research. It is designed to be the standard work, widely used and highly-cited, by all scholars with an interest in politics and space.”

Stephen Jett, former faculty, since his last report he has continued to carry on research, writing and editing Pre-Columbiana: A Journal of Long-Distance Contacts. He has published several articles relating to possible pre-1492 Old World cultural influences on the New World, and he attended the annual meeting of the Archaeological Society of New Mexico. He enjoys offering occasional courses at Abingdon Virginia’s College for Older Adults.

Mei-Po Kwan, with colleagues in Sociology and Statistics received a $700,000 grant from the Human and Social Dynamics Program of the National Science Foundation. The three-year project, titled Dynamics of Space and Time Use: Patterns, Causes, and Consequences for Crime and Problem Behavior”, will examine the effect of socio-geographic context on crime and other problem behaviors. This will be done through a dynamic notion of neighborhood, one that is based on peoples’ daily activities and travel in space-time. In addition, Mei-Po, with colleagues in Public Health and Family, also received about $500,000 from the National Institutes of Health and the Ohio Department of Mental Health for
projects that seek to apply innovative GIS methods to health research. Mei-Po also delivered six keynote addresses and named lectures in 2007-08: (i) keynote address for GIS Day at the University of Massachusetts Amherst; (ii) Mel Webber Lecture for the University of California Transportation Center; (iii) Elizabeth Chan Geography Academic Lecture for the Hong Kong Baptist University; (iv) Louis Leipold Distinguished Geography Lecture at St Cloud State University; (v) Keynote address at the Technology in Qualitative Research Workshop, Fourth International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry; (vi) keynote address at the "Time-Space and Life Course" conference in London. In addition, the Social Science History Association will feature her work at their 2008 Annual Meeting in a presidential plenary session titled "Time Geography: the work of Mei-Po Kwan."

Ron Sheck, former faculty, has moved to downtown Seattle. In the words of Ron and wife Marilyn – Five years in our lovely home in Wallingford has been great, but it is time to downsize. We both work all week and then come home and work in the house or the yard all weekend. So, effective July 10 we will be in a two bedroom, two bath, + tiny den, apartment on the top (17th) floor of a year old complex. Much of the last month or so has been getting rid of stuff, garage sale, give away, send things to kids, sell some things; just can't fit everything that is in a 3200 square foot house into a 1225 square foot apartment. We are excited about our new location. It is three blocks from Marilyn’s office at Seattle Public Library and about 10 from Ron’s current office at WSDOT in Pioneer Square. There is a grocery store on the ground floor with a coffee bar and deli, a roof top garden, fitness center, and party room. All of our doctors, dentists, and pharmacy are within five blocks; as is our Broadway Theater. We are close to shopping and lots of restaurants and movies. It will be a new experience. We are going to keep our 2003 (19,000 miles) van, for now, anyway. We will review that in six months or so. Climate change and sustainability may well point us in new directions. YES, we still have a guest room with its own bath – so plan your visit. We are now taking bookings for the downtown Sheck B&B. Marilyn was in California attending a library conference, and was then joined by (grand??) children Nedda, Brandi, and Brooke for four days at Disneyland. All four kids had a great time. Hope all is going well with you and yours. Please plan to visit us in Seattle where we will be for four more years.

Youngmin Lee, former Visiting Scholar. Since his return to Ewha Womans University in Seoul Korea in August 2007, Youngmin has had an article accepted for publication in the Journal of Cultural Geography. His article, written with Kyonghwan Park of Chonnam National University, is titled “Negotiating Hybridity: Transnational Reconstruction of Migrant Subjectivity in Los Angeles Koreatown.”

Paul Robbins, former faculty, was the keynote speaker at the 15th Annual Mini-Conference on Critical Geography hosted by Ohio University in October 2008. The conference is recognized by geographers and other critical social scientists from around the world as a valuable forum in which to interact and exchange ideas in a small-conference setting. Paul is currently a Professor at the Department of Geography and Regional Development at the University of Arizona. His interests include people, nonhuman organisms and the institutions that mediate their interactions.

Ningchuan Xiao is the new editor of the SAM (Spatial Analysis and Modeling Specialty Group) Newsletter, beginning in 2007.

Current Staff

Phillip Birnie: Between dissertation research, gardening, and getting married, Phil Birnie is assisting with preparations for our department's upcoming Centennial Celebration. He is curating Van Cleef's map collection to be displayed in the north corridor of Derby and gathering contact information for our many alumni, colleagues and friends.

Diane Carducci: At the end of May 2008, Diane celebrated her 10 year anniversary at OSU and Geography. She says -- How amazing it is that I have reached my ten-year anniversary at Ohio State
and the Geography Department. So much has changed and yet so much remains the same. I have now worked with two chairs, two fiscal officers, six co-workers, and countless student assistants. I have begun to recount history by who was working beside me in the office! During this time, my daughter Alison has completed her BS and MS degrees from OSU and gotten married. My youngest son, D.J., has begun his senior year at OSU and my other son, Mark, had his ten-year high school class reunion. My husband Don and I will be celebrating our 35th wedding anniversary in October 2008. All incredible milestones in my life. It is exciting to watch the incoming students start on their academic careers, grow and become knowledgeable in their work and then graduate. How I enjoy seeing them smile (usually big, big smiles) when finally completing their degrees. It’s been the best part of my job.

LAB Comment: Diane has really been a mainstay in our department and come to really care about what goes on here, not just as a job. A few years ago the staff sent me a card for “bosses day” saying “We’d like to pay a complement – You’ve seen got a great bunch of people working for you!” And that is really true of everybody. The staff is incredibly important for us as a community and for us to function well. And Diane typifies the best of all that.

Colin Kelsey: I had the distinct pleasure of joining the Geography Department in April 2008. Since that time I have been collecting, organizing, and storing maps and pamphlets from National Geographic and rebuilding The Ohio Geographic Alliance under the direction of Dr. W. Randy Smith.

Stephanie Max continues to work as a program assistant for CURA. She has also taken on a program assistant position for the Geography Department. She spends her time away from work with her husband, Joel, 5 year old daughter, Holland and their dog, Lizzie.

Maggie Merry joined Geography in December 2007 as Fiscal and Human Resources Officer, when Linda Bryant retired. She has a dual BA in Criminology and Psychology from Ohio State and has one year left to finish her Masters degree at the John Glenn School for Public Affairs. Maggie came to Geography from Academic Affairs where she was their Fiscal Manager. Maggie lives in Powell with her husband, Paul, her mother, Sylvia, and their 7 Cavalier King Charles Spaniels. Maggie frequently competes in agility competitions with three of their dogs. In December, her dog Bailey finished the year ranked 8th in the country and holds two championships and many other titles. Another dog, Sophie, finished High in Trial Specialist Standard at a recent Canine Performance Events National competition held in Mason Michigan. Their youngest, Finnigan, is just beginning his agility career, but shows great promise! Maggie and Paul also help breed rescue with Lucky Star Cavalier Rescue -- which is partially why they have accumulated so many!

Staff Updates

Jaclyn Cruikshank, former Office Associate, is currently a PhD student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She writes -- OSU Geography is inescapable! So here I am, at good old UNL, checking out the most recent edition of the Journal of Modern Literature, and when I flip to the introduction, lo and behold, Mei-Po’s name leaps of the page! To quote – “In a Centennial Forum published in the Annals of the Association of American Geographers, Mei-Po Kwan, an important scholar in the field of postmodern geography, notes that a feminist approach to geography is a ‘hybrid’ discipline that involves ‘writing and speaking across cultures, spaces, and social locations’ (page 759).” Kwan’s observation seems to have special relevance to this issue of JML. I have titled the issue ‘Domestic Landscapes’ for the reason that all the essays deal with an extended terrain, conventionally mapped or defined, that is re-seen from a more intimate, more imaginative, or more inclusive perspective. That all the authors discussed here are women, who were either marginalized within the modernist movement or, as a result of a legacy of struggle, identified themselves as feminist writers, may account for the ways in which they call into question established and totalizing landscapes of meaning.
Lynn Lyons, former Office Associate, writes -- When I first started at OSU, I was uncertain where I wanted to end up, let alone what to do. I accepted a position in the Department of Geography where I was introduced to a variety of jobs such as purchasing, travel, and graduate admissions. The greatest part was to meet and greet people from all different cultures, ethnicities, etc. Still, I found out that, of all the jobs I’ve done, I truly enjoy graduate admissions (and yes, it can be a headache all the same). So, when a position became available as a Graduate Program Coordinator in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering in the College of Engineering, I applied successfully. In this position, I have been introduced to more aspects of graduate admissions and the Graduate School to include what is required of each graduate student from the beginning to the end of their instructions. It truly was a blessing to be selected for this position. I enjoy it immensely and would not change or trade it for another, unless it is working with people. I feel that this is where I am supposed to be. Once you are in a position to see the responses of current and prospective students, receiving the information and being completely satisfied. It’s meaningful to hear students say that I made their day when I feel I really didn’t do anything special. But to them, it was.

In Geography there is an awesome group of students and faculty that I miss, and wish them all great success as they fulfill their vision for the future. One thing I especially miss is the closeness that I experienced -- jokes, laughter, and talks. It has been challenging to transition into my new job, get to know who’s who, and understand their way of doing things. But I have incorporated some things I learned from Geography, and moving from a smaller department to a larger one has been a situation that I enjoy being challenge with. And it is a lot quieter over here than Geography.

I would like to thank you all, students, faculty and alumni for your support and encouragement through my tenure in the Department of Geography as I transition into the next phase of my career. Mei-Po Kwan, Jeff Rogers, and Larry Brown thank you especially for patience in working with me on graduate admissions and GeoSpectrum (smile). I Miss you all.

LAB Comment: Lynn’s presence here is very much missed. Aside from not having her to help with GeoSpectrum, her presence in the office contributed significantly to a great atmosphere. Lynn has come back to visit from time to time, and she really is pleased with her new position which is more specialized and draws out her skills. As I recall, I think she also has her own office, always an important perk. Thanks Lynn for all you gave to us and good luck in your new life. And come visit more, of course.

Current Graduate Students

LAB Comment: Our Graduate Student body, their advisors, and committee members deserve an enormous amount of credit for changing the culture of OSU Geography. Long before completing their degree and entering the workforce world they are active professionally and making distinct contributions to knowledge, the academy, and society. Details on their activities are below. Particularly impressive is the vast range of work they do and sources from which they receive support. The academic scope and industriousness of our students is a really impressive forward step for us. A-1 ALL!!

Nurcan Atalan-Helicke (advisor Becky Mansfield) has been awarded a National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement grant! Nurcan’s dissertation is entitled European Accession and Wheat Diversity in Neoliberal Turkey. She will be using the grant to continue her fieldwork in Turkey, where she will live in two villages to learn how farmers -- long the protectors of traditional wheat varieties -- are changing their seed saving practices in response to national and international neoliberal agricultural policy.

Hyowon Ban (advisor Ola Ahlqvist) was a finalist in the 2008 AAG Cartography Specialty Group honor student paper competition. Abstract title: Web-based Interactive Visualization of Different...
Definitions of Exurban Areas.

Eric Boschmann (advisor Mei-Po Kwan) received a Presidential Fellowship from the OSU Graduate School! The fellowship recognizes outstanding scholarship and research ability. It enables recipients to work full time on their dissertation research. According to the Graduate School, "recipients of this award embody the highest standards of scholarship in our graduate programs".

LAB Comment: In addition to the Presidential Fellowship, Eric received an NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant – also a very high prestige recognition.

Wei Chen (advisor Mei-Po Kwan) was a finalist in this year's AAG Cartography Specialty Group honor student paper competition. Abstract title: Visibility Frequency Analysis Based On DEM.

Jill Clark (advisor Darla Munroe) has been awarded an International Geographic Fund Committee (IGIF) travel award by the AAG and an OSU Critical Difference for Women Professional Development Grant. These will support her attending the 7th International Science Conference on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change, October 2008 in New Delhi India.

Nick Crane (advisor Nancy Ettlinger) received an award from the AAG's Graduate Student Affinity Group (GSAG) for his Master's research on alternative economic spaces. This is the first time this award has been offered.

Michael Ewers (advisor Ed Malecki) received a grant from the Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad program. He "will conduct research in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for 10 months, examining the role of highly-skilled, expatriate labor in the country’s efforts to transition beyond oil-based economic development. Ewers will study a number of diversification strategies which have been implemented since the 1970s in the UAE to understand how knowledge transfer from expatriate to local labor has occurred."

LAB Comment: This is really impressive. Previously, Michael received a Social Science Research Council (SSRC) Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship and a US Department of Education Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship. Regarding the Fulbright, I believe that Bill Ackerman (PhD ’72, advisor Howard Gauthier, Argentina) was the first Geography PhD to receive this award; followed by Bill Berentsen (PhD ’76, advisors Howard Gauthier, George Demko, Austria), and Trevor Birkenholtz, (PhD ’07, advisors Kevin Cox, Paul Robbins, India).

Kevin Grove (advisor Mat Coleman) received an award from the Office of International Affairs for his dissertation research. In their letter to Kevin, OIA noted that Kevin's proposal was considered by the eight faculty judges as "one of the very best". He also received support from OSU’s Environmental Policy Initiative (EPI). These will allow Kevin to conduct pre-dissertation, exploratory research in Kingston Jamaica during Summer 2008. His working title is Insuring Disaster: Global Environmental Change and Social Order in the Age of the Insurance-Development-Security Complex.

Tim Hawthorne (advisor Mei-Po Kwan) received an Urban Geography Graduate Student Fellowship from the AAG Urban Geography Specialty Group. This Fellowship provides support for urban-oriented doctoral research or related professional activities. Tim also received an Alumni Grant for Graduate Research and Scholarship (AGGRS) from the OSU Graduate School. Tim's research seeks to develop a new multi-dimensional conceptualization of healthcare accessibility. He will undertake a survey and in-depth interviews with subjects in selected low-income neighborhoods in Columbus through a mixed-method approach.

Shiguo Jiang (advisor Desheng Liu) won a runner-up prize for the AAG Graduate Student Affinity Group (GSAG) Student Paper Competition. The competition seeks to promote the dissemination of student research through written and oral presentations. The title of Shiguo’s paper is Beijing Metropolitan Area: Its Fractal Form and Spatial Expansion. Currently, Shiguo is working as a
Research Associate on a project funded by the University’s Climate, Water, and Carbon initiative and led by Andy Keeler (Glenn School), Brent Sohngen (Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics), and Morton O’Kelly.

Joseph Lewis (advisor Mat Coleman) received a Mershon Center for his dissertation research on Terrorism, Urban Spaces, and Middle Eastern Lives as Targets of US Security Policy.

April Luginbuhl (advisor Becky Mansfield) and husband Steve are residing in Cleveland as she continues to work on her research and writing, hoping to complete her dissertation and graduate no later than June. She says -- Cleveland is a great place. Not that we get out much anymore, but there is lots to do (theater, orchestra, museums, cultural events) if we ever do get out. They have a high functioning public transit too, which has been a joy to Steve on his commute to work. I like being near the lake; so good to be next to a large body of water again. The food and ethnic history are fascinating too. I'm in love with the real Italian, Hungarian, and Polish food that is so easy to find here. And a lot of it is still made and sold locally in mom and pop stores. So, the food has been a fun adventure!

Anurupa Roy (advisor Kevin Cox) received an award from the Mershon Center in support of her pre-dissertation research in India. Her topic is The Nativists and the Stigmatized: The Politics of Migrant Labor in India.

Madhuri Sharma (advisor Larry Brown) has received awards from the Graduate School’s Alumni Grants for Graduate Research and Scholarship (AGGRS) and from the Small Grants Program of the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity. These are for support of her dissertation research titled Spatial Integration and Neighborhood Diversity in US MSAs 1990-2000: A Mixed-Method Approach. The Kirwan award letter says, "this project has a very strong potential to contribute meaningfully to the growing body of research on how the arrangement of urban space in the US is influenced by race and ethnicity. ... The mixed qualitative methodologies outlined for phase III of your project and the focus on Columbus should add an especially accessible dimension to this body of research.

Lijia Wei (advisor Ellen Mosley-Thompson) was the first recipient of the Rick Toracinta Graduate Scholarship in Atmospheric Science. The Scholarship commemorates Rick’s life and work and is intended to advance the recipient’s graduate career. Wei used the award to present her research at the 2008 AAG meeting in Boston Massachusetts.

Sarah Wright (advisors Bryan Mark, Kendra McSweeney) received a grant from the Office of International Affairs to support research in Peru on "Water and Warming: Indigenous Perspectives on Climate Change." Wright also received the 2008 Association of American Geographers Latin America Specialty Group (LASG) Field Study Award at the Masters level for the same project, there titled "Water and Warming: The Indigenous Perspective on Glacier Recession in the Peruvian Andes." The LASG judges voted unanimously in favor of Sarah’s project. The award will defray expenses of field work in Peru.

LAB Comment: Especially noteworthy about Sarah’s project is that it truly draws on and blends human and physical geography. This was one of the long run goals in establishing the People-Society-Environment track, and in fact, Sarah’s project is only one of several instances of such collaboration within OSU Geography. I'm very pleased with this outcome.

Alumni

Katrin Anacker (PhD ’06, City and Regional Planning, advisor Hazel Morrow-Jones) writes that after graduating in June 2006 she took up a one-year Post Doctoral Fellowship at the Metropolitan Institute in Alexandria Virginia (in the DC area). Since August 2007 she has been there as a Research Assistant Professor (non-tenure track, 3 year appointment). Her main task is to serve as Co-Editor of Housing Policy Debate. www.mivt.edu (under Housing Policy Debate). Katrin also is the conference manager of the international event "A Suburban World? Global Decentralization and the New Metropolis," which was hosted in Reston Virginia in April 2008. This conference is
sponsored by the Center for Sustainable Suburban Development at the University of California at Irvine and by the National Association of Realtors; see www.mlvt.edu (under speeches and events and then under events).

LAB Comment: The Metropolitan Institute is a very impressive institution in terms of work done, people affiliated with it, and the like, and Housing Policy Debate is a major journal in that area. While here, Katrin worked closely with Geography as a member of the CURA staff.

Marilyn Brown (PhD ’77, advisor Larry Brown) writes -- Why does it take so long for energy innovations and best practices to penetrate the marketplace? Some of the answers can be found in a new ORNL (Oak Ridge National Laboratories) report called Carbon Lock-In: Barriers To Deploying Climate Change Mitigation Technologies. You can download it at: http://www.ornl.gov/sci/eere/PDFs/Carbon_Lock_In_Report.pdf. This report concludes that barriers to the deployment of climate mitigation technologies are wide-ranging. First and foremost is the economy-wide market failure caused by the absence of a price on GHG (Greenhouse Gas) emissions. In combination with other cost-effectiveness issues, these are critical and pervasive deployment barriers. However, additional obstacles play important roles as well, including financial, technical, and market risks, infrastructure and supply chain gaps, misplaced incentives, and imperfect information. These barriers impede progress across the complete spectrum of GHG-reducing technologies and operate at every stage of the commercialization and deployment process. Some obstacles are broad in scope, others are more targeted; some appear amenable to policy solutions, while others may not be. Indeed, some barriers are the result of existing regulations, statutes, and fiscal policies that unfavorably treat climate change mitigation technologies.


LAB Comment: Marilyn, or Lyn as I know her, worked at Oak Ridge for many years, probably about 25+. She now splits her time with ORNL, where she holds the title of Visiting Distinguished Scientist, and the Georgia Institute of Technology (aka Georgia Tech) where she is Professor in the School of Public Policy. In 2004 she was awarded the James R. Anderson Medal, one of the AAG’s highest recognitions.

Ryan Butler (BS Sp ’07), I currently work at Woolpert Cooperative Headquarters in Dayton Ohio where we have about 200 employees in the office including about 30 in the GIS group. Our GIS group is growing and we have a brand new building. I am also currently in the process of working towards my masters degree at Penn State University where I am taking all of the classes online. If anyone wants to be informed when we have a GIS opening, feel free to e-mail me at ryan.butler@woolpert.com.

LAB Comment: The Penn State distance learning program mentioned by Ryan is first rate. It’s good to see our students taking advantage of such an opportunity. This type of program allows one to study around their own schedule, where and when it’s most convenient, and attain a degree while holding employment and without being a student in residence.

Richard Courtney (PhD ’93, advisor Randy Smith) is the newly elected chair of the Kutztown University Department of Geography.

Emily Dixon (BS Sp ’05), formerly Emily Hobbs, served three years in the Air Force as a weather operations officer, and separated from the service as of 30 June 2008. In July she moved to Enid Oklahoma with husband Jon Dixon (BA Aviation ’07) so he can attend pilot training at Vance AFB. Emily is currently seeking employment in the Enid area. She is interviewing with a few companies, and says “hopefully I can provide a work address soon!”

Jennifer Mandel (PhD ’01, advisor Larry Brown) has taken a leave of absence from her faculty
position at the University of Wisconsin Platteville to work for a small DC based NGO called Microfinance Opportunities, for which the founder/director is also a Geography PhD. She comments about the opportunity -- for the moment I'm enjoying my work, colleagues, the travel and living in DC close to good friends and family. The job entails 30-40% travel, which was a big part of the attraction. I'm currently in the Philippines, returning on July 17th and then off to Uganda for two weeks on August 3rd. I will probably also be going to Mongolia sometime soon. That the work appears to be an application of my own research was another big attraction. So, it’s all good and I’m really happy. But of course, only time will tell.

LAB Comment: Janek, as she is known, is a very special person. Her dissertation, on Women’s work in Benin, was exceptionally thorough and one of the best (and thickest) I’ve directed – Survival to Surplus: Variation in Livelihood Strategies Among Women in Porto Novo Benin. So she is an excellent academic, but also has NGO leanings in that her parents are lifetime USAID professionals. So, as Janek says, “Only time will tell.”

Peter Grove (MA ’85, advisor Morton O’Kelly), is a manager for FedEx Solutions. He visited OSU on business in February 2008, and intended to visit the Department while here, but ran out of time. In Peter’s own words “The day ended up being filled with FedEx business. Sorry I couldn’t make it over but there is a reasonable chance I’ll be back in the not too distant future. It was great to be back on campus!!”

Paul Hoeffer (MA ’07, advisor Darla Munroe) is currently working as a GIS Specialist at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Geological Survey.

Felicity Kitchin (PhD ’88, advisor Kevin Cox) visited here in April 2008, following the AAG meeting. With her were husband Mike Sutcliffe (PhD ’84, advisor Kevin Cox) and their son Warren. They were in Boston for the AAG meeting where Mike received both an AAG Honors Award and the James Anderson Medal, as detailed elsewhere in this GeoSpectrum. While here, Mike gave an informal talk on “The South African Transition: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow: A Personal Experience.” Felicity wrote that “The recognition meant so much to him (and me) and I think he is feeling more academically invigorated than he has for many years. Warren also loved his brief time in Columbus, and the Monday afternoon session was a wonderful opportunity for him to listen to Michael engaging with others on a more academic and constructive level than he has ever had in South Africa. He really appreciated that. It was also great for him to see first hand what a US campus is like -- I find it a far more collegial atmosphere than is the case in any South African campuses I have visited. Andrea (our daughter) chatted to Warren last night, and has grand plans for the entire family to visit Columbus for the Department’s centenary (funded, I suspect, by her parents!), so maybe we will see you there again next year! I am working on integration of the poor into everyday life, their access (or lack of it) to well-located urban land, and related social inclusion/exclusion. (If you are interested, there is quite a lot of work in this area on www.urbanlandmark.org) but I don’t know if they have loaded work I’ve done yet. I want to try to develop a research proposal that would allow a longer period than the normal 2-3 month consulting research and provide a greater opportunity for more in-depth research, looking at how the poor gain access to urban opportunities (residential, economic, commercial and social amenities) and whether, and in what circumstances, this translates into social inclusion and social (class and race) integration/mixing.

Sang-II Lee (PhD ’01, advisor Larry Brown) wrote of a paper forthcoming in Geographical Analysis that “The paper has been something like a troublesome but really smart son. I am so happy to finally finish it up and move forward.” He recently visited the University of Texas at Dallas, June 16-20, to participate in a workshop on Spatial Filtering organized by Michael Tiefelsdorf (former OSU faculty) and Dan Griffith along with Yongwan Chun (PhD ’07, advisor Michael Tiefelsdorf). He said “this will be my first academic trip to the US since the Columbus era, but I promise that you will be able to see me at the next AAG meeting.” Sang-II also is working on a new segregation index (both global and local), funded by the Korean NSF, and recently published 2 journal articles in Korean. His
2001 paper in the *Journal of Geographical Systems* has been cited 14 times so far, of which he says, “an exciting thing is that 4 of them were reported in 2008. And I know the article has been cited by two textbooks: *Spatial Data Analysis: Theory and Practice* (R. Haining, 2003) and *Statistical Analysis of Geographic Information with ArcView GIS and ArcGIS* (D.W. S. Wong and J. Lee, 2005). I am happy.” Sang-II is also planning to get involved in various research projects funded by the Korea National Statistical Office, the Korean National Geographic Information Institute, and private companies. Sang-II is at Seoul National University.

**LAB Comment:** I am really pleased to see Sang-II compiling this kind of record. Indeed, my response to his e-mail saying “I am happy” was “Write more papers; get more cites; become more happy!!” Also, I understand that Sang-II will be promoted to Associate Professor this Autumn; congratulations!!

**Sal Licausi** (MA ’98, advisor Pat Pellegrini) writes “I figured I might be well ‘set the record straight’ regarding my current and past activities. Maybe I should start from the beginning (of my post-OSU life, I mean!): After obtaining my MA from Ohio State, I got married, moved to Maryland and took a job with Indus Corporation doing GIS work for the US Department of Justice and the EPA. I then worked for KBM Group, another small company, doing similar work for HUD, among other federal agencies. At this time, I met (through a former student of his and coworker of mine) Dr. DeWitt Davis, who recruited me to teach an advanced ArcView GIS course at the University of the District of Columbia. Either a small world, or the power of Ohio State Geography, I guess! Dr. Davis and I enjoyed reminiscing about OSU. I then moved back to the Hudson Valley (my home turf) to take a position as the GIS Coordinator for the Dutchess County Environmental Management Council. After working there for two years, I moved on to become a GIS Analyst for Essex Corporation at Fort Hamilton, in Brooklyn NY. I was then promoted to Program Manager of the Fort Meade GIS Center, where I’ve been since September 2006. The Fort Meade GIS Center is a component of the US Army Garrison Fort Meade, rather than a separate or private company. In other words, I work as a contractor for the Army. In January 2007, Essex was purchased by Northrop Grumman, so now I’m a Northrop Grumman employee (still getting used to that idea!).

I married my wife, Sheila (Thomas) Licausi, of Monroe NY, in 1998. We have a son and two daughters, and live in Arnold Maryland.

Please send my best wishes to Drs. Ettlinger, Cox, Kwan, O’Kelly, Rogers, and Smith; Eric Neubauer (PhD ’01, advisor Randy Smith), Linda Bryant, Jim DeGrand and Jens Blevad, and everyone else at OSU Geography!

**LAB Comment:** Whew; quite a story!! This is in response to a comment I made in *GeoSpectrum* 07 where Sal had written that he was “manager of the Fort Meade GIS Center” and I said “Is Sal in the military or is GIS Center a Business?” Guess we all found out, as noted above. DeWitt Davis is a former OSU faculty member. Eric Neubauer now teaches at Columbus State Community College.

**Jo Machin** (MA ’01, advisor Eugene McCann), was spotted at a wedding in Suffolk by John Arnfield who reports, “I expected to know no-one at the event, other than the friend and her husband who I had met a couple of times. Imagine my surprise, then, when I spied across the room none other but Jo Machin. It turns out that the bride went to the University of Reading with Jo. We had a chat (despite the band!). Jo seems well settled. She is a research officer with the Institute of Volunteering Research and was married herself just three weeks ago, to a chap called Adam who she knew at Reading. Reminiscences were exchanged and Jo sends her regards to all those she knew at OSU.”

**Brett Machovina** (MA ’96, advisor Duane Marble) completed his 3rd quarter in the PhD program in Geography at the University of Denver in June 2008,

**LAB Comment:** Joining Brett at U Denver is Eric Boschmann (PhD ’08, advisor Mei-Po Kwan), mentioned earlier in this *GeoSpectrum* 2008 under Current Graduate Students, and Andy Goetz (PhD ’87, advisor Ned Taaffe) is already there -- Buckeye Geography West
Tim Matisziw (PhD ’05, advisor Morton O’Kelly) has taken a faculty position at the University of Missouri. It is a joint appointment in Geography and civil and environmental engineering. Since receiving his degree Tim has held the position of Post-Doctoral Research with our Center for Urban and Regional Analysis.

Mike McIntyre (PhD ’51, advisor Guy-Harold Smith) wrote to Larry -- “I noted your latest (of many) AAG honors and hasten to congratulate you! Your continuing recognition, and that of others, enhances the value for all OSU degree holders, so we are in your debt. Thank you.”

LAB Comment: Mike has been good and steady friend of OSU Geography. He writes yearly to me up to date on the events in his life, joke a bit, share a few thoughts on the profession, and the like. The complement from him is much appreciated.

Jon Moore (PhD’ 03, advisor Larry Brown) has moved from Utah Valley University back to Ohio, with a faculty position at the University of Akron. He and Amy have a 15 month old son, Sutter (nick name for Southerland). In arriving at the name, Jon says that they wanted something unique that you could yell across the store and the child should know they are wanted!!

Sarah Nolte (BS Au ’04). After graduating I moved to Wausau Wisconsin to work for Great Lakes Weather Service and WAWO TV. I then moved to Bluefield West Virginia to work at WVVA NBC 6 as the weekend meteorologist / reporter, in April 2006. Then, in December 2006, I was promoted to morning/noon meteorologist. I have nothing but wonderful memories of my time at Ohio State. I miss being in the classroom with Dr. Hobgood and all my fellow Met students. I try to represent the Buckeyes down here in mountaineer country.

LAB Comment: Sarah has obviously done very well professionally. More can be found by Googling WVVA Sarah Nolte. There, it says -- She is a native of Ohio, born and raised in a Suburb of Columbus and is a die hard Buckeye fan. During football season, you will be sure to find her wearing an OSU jersey every Saturday. Sarah’s interest in weather started at a young age. She was afraid of thunderstorms as a child, but that sparked her interest in the weather and how it works. Sarah loves the four distinct seasons of this region and is happy to call the two Virginiass her home. She enjoys the outdoors, traveling, movies and shopping. You can email Sarah at snolte@wvva.com. Nice Going Sarah – you make us proud!!

Firoozav Pavri (PhD ’99, advisor Larry Brown) was promoted to Associate Professor, effective in Autumn 2009. She is faculty member at the University of Southern Maine in Portland. Her specialties are listed as human-environment interactions, South Asia, and remote sensing/GIS.

LAB Comment: Firoozav was at Emporia State University, Kansas. By comparison, Portland is a major metropolis; she is settled in and happy!

Rickie Sanders (PhD ’80, advisor Larry Brown) wrote an article on using photography in the geography classroom (2007, Developing Geographers Through Photography: Enlarging Concepts. Journal of Geography in Higher Education) that Kendra McSweeney used in a senior-level research methods class. Kendra passed on student comments to Rickie saying “in short, the students loved it. A typical comment is -- I particularly liked a selection [where] Sanders says, photographs “capture what everybody can see but, lacking the analytical frame, they have little grasp of.” This is absolutely true. It is necessary to develop one’s ability to think analytically in order to understand more fully the meaning of a particular photograph and what it says about a landscape. What does the photo indicate in terms of the landscape’s history? Why did the photographer choose this particular scene? What makes it important? What might be missing from the photograph? Why? There are all sorts of questions that need to be asked and probed in order to better understand a photograph itself and the landscape that it depicts (in a sense looking “inside” and “outside” the photograph).

LAB Comment: One of the very interesting
things about teaching in a PhD program is to see the many different paths that our graduates take, the many different ways that they evolve.

**Joel Shelton** (PhD ’06, advisor **Larry Brown**) says he has two full time jobs now: one at Ohio State, and the other at home as I have a four month old.” Joel has been working in education administration at OSU, holding the position of Coordinator of Academic Advising. As time goes on he remains committed to continuing his career in higher education administration, but is leaning towards a community college setting which is about teaching, working with adult students, and the like. In this regard, he also is doing some outreach advising at Columbus State.

**Michael Sutcliffe** (PhD ’84, advisor **Kevin Cox**); See **Felicity Kitchin**, above, for news on the entire family, Mike’s AAG recognitions, and the like.

**Warren Sutcliffe**, son of **Mike Sutcliffe** and **Felicity Kitchin**, has moved to the US from South Africa. With a Java programming diploma in hand, he has taken a position in Akron Ohio doing web development for **Chenspec**, a company that specializes in selling paint products. Warren writes “they need an online catalogue and ordering system designed for them, the owner has lots of ideas he wants implemented so it sounds like it should be challenging. The company seems like a good company to work for, and they are owned by South Africans with offices in a few countries, so hopefully it will allow me to travel within the company.”

**David Wheeler** (PhD ’06, advisor **Morton O’Kelly**) has been weighing multiple options and finally decided to take up obtaining a Public Health Masters degree at Harvard. He will have NCI fellowship support for his next phase of studies.

**LAB Comment:** David has certainly taken a very different trajectory in his professional life, one that we are very proud of. And it certainly is a long way from his few years in the private sector – was it CVS??

**Ling Zhuang** (MA ’00, advisor **Morton O’Kelly**) has left his position at ESRI and is a GIS Project Manager at CH2M Hill, at their office in Bellevue Washington.

**LAB Comment:** From its home page, CH2M Hill is “A global leader in full service engineering, construction, and operations.” They bill themselves as “solutions without boundaries” and say “CH2M HILL employees --smart people doing remarkable things in every corner of the world.” That certainly sounds like one of our graduates!! Congratulations Ling.

**STUDENT REPORTS FROM THE FIELD IV**

**LAB Comment:** With so many students now doing field work, I thought it would be interesting for readers to see the world through their eyes and their experiences -- to get a feel for the many dimensions of this endeavor, personal and professional. Hence, this section of **GeoSpectrum08**, the fourth year of this new addition. The idea originated with **Kendra McSweeney** who organized the first **Reports From the Field** presentations in Autumn 2004, and has done so again in each Autumn Quarter. In 2007, in **Kendra’s words** – “more than 35 people showed up – undergrads, grads, and faculty – the response was extremely positive!”

Note in reading these the very different places are students are/were in, and their vast range of experiences, their excitement, and intrigue.

**Delphine Ancien** (advisor **Kevin Cox**) spoke about "Conducting fieldwork in London: Meet the PAs" The presentation was about her 2007 dissertation fieldwork in **London**. She had four main points to reflect on and share with others. One was the major issue of finding affordable housing in London in order to study the lack of affordable housing in London! The second issue was the logistical and cultural difficulties in getting interviews and reaching potential interviewees -- which, because they were elites in the sense of holding public office etc, required that I go through their PA, or personal assistant. Third was dealing or coping with changes in the direction of the research brought about by the on-going fieldwork. Her final point was about the necessity of re-creating and maintaining a social life
in one's fieldwork site in order to deal with the frustration and anxiety that fieldwork can produce.

**Phil Birnie** (advisor Nancy Ettlinger) talked about his interview and participant observation experiences with business owners in the South Campus Gateway, right here in Columbus. "I discussed how I recovered from a disastrous start to fieldwork with business owners, displaced by the new South Campus Gateway. Initially, I was nervous, rigid, and overbearing. But by reflecting critically about how I was presenting myself, soliciting advice from business owners whom were close friends, and even purchasing some of the business owners' wares, I developed a far more effective approach to examine how business owners utilized knowledge to overcome the problems of displacement."

**Eric Boschmann** (advisor Mei-Po Kwan) titled his presentation "Let the People Speak: Lessons Learned from Interviews on Job Accessibility". He shared several lessons learned from conducting interviews on employment access with working-poor individuals in the Columbus area. These ranged from managing the logistics of interviews, challenges faced in recruiting participants, and new insight on the theoretical conceptualization that arises once fieldwork commences.

**Jason Davis** (advisor Becky Mansfield) reported on "Engaging Elites: Participant Observation Among Diplomats and Scientists," sharing his experiences of attending three scientific/diplomatic conferences in the hopes of talking to scientists and policy-makers about the commercial uses of biological research in Antarctica. In June 2006 he visited Edinburgh Scotland to attend the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting and also spent time in Cambridge at the British Antarctic Survey and Scott Polar Research Institute. In July 2006 he went to the Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research meeting in Hobart Tasmania. In September 2007 he went to Stockholm Sweden to attend a meeting of the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists. At each conference, he was able to gather some data, but also was forced to rethink his dissertation and how he articulated it to the elite subjects of his research.

**April Luginbuhl** (advisor Becky Mansfield) spoke about "Trial, Error, and Pleasant Surprise: A Snowballing Adventure Across US Corn Country." This involved conducting semi-structured interviews in Iowa during November 2006. She shared the work that went into preparing her week in Iowa and the difference that physically being in Iowa made in terms of recruiting participants. She also shared lessons learned about the need to secure affordable housing when interviewing away from home – similar to the experience of Delphine.

**Emily Rupp** (advisor Becky Mansfield) titled her presentation "Fever, Mosquitoes, and Floods, Oh My! Identifying the Pluralities of Malaria Definitions in Northern Ghana." Emily reflected on the challenges she faced in returning to a familiar environment for fieldwork, since people often associated her with her past community roles, while there as a Peace Corps Volunteer. She also focused on the difficulties in balancing consistency, accuracy, and sample size when interviewing in a multi-lingual community.

**And, From Summer/Fall 2008**

**Nurcan Atalan-Helicke** (advisor Becky Mansfield) carried out the first phase of fieldwork for her doctoral dissertation on European Union Accession and Conservation of Wheat Diversity in Neoliberal Turkey in Autumn 2007. During 16 weeks in the field, she took semi-structured interviews with state officials, visited three Agricultural Research Institutes and the national gene bank, and visited villages in northwestern Turkey. Nurcan also made contacts with farmers who still grow traditional wheat varieties. Subsequently, she was awarded a National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement (DDRI) Grant, which she will use in 2009 and 2010 to complete the fieldwork.

**Michael Ewers** (advisor Ed Malecki) left Columbus to continue field work for his dissertation. He wrote to Larry – It was quite an ordeal to move out of our house, get the house ready to rent and bring my family half way around the world. We have been here for a month now and are getting settled in nicely. I have been spending most of my time so far at the
central library getting my secondary data in order. Next month I will hopefully start with my surveys. I am also helping to teach a course in the geography department, which is an interesting experience. Anyway, I just wanted to send you a brief note of thanks for all of your help in getting me here. You wrote me a lot of letters of recommendation and gave me a lot of good advice. I appreciate your help. I hope that all is well in Columbus and I wish you a great academic year.

Kevin Grove (advisor Mat Coleman) wrote from Jamaica – Greetings From the Heart of Gustav. I’ve sort of been locked in my fortress-like hotel in the New Kingston district (the business and diplomatic center of the city). Much of the area has been shut down, and the streets have emptied of people and police -- not exactly a friendly environment for a single white male photographer! But because there has been little else to do today, I grabbed some pictures of the eye of the storm approaching Kingston from various vantage points in my hotel.

Yesterday, disaster management officials were omnipresent on TV and radio warning about Gustav, but by last night, nothing outside of occasional rains had occurred and the sky was clear. People went to bed thinking the storm was going to continue moving away from the island, only to wake up and find Kingston and the southern coast right in its crosshairs. So there has been a rush to stock up on supplies, make last-minute preparations to clean out drains, and secure roofs and windows. Kingston has largely been spared: although winds and rains picked up about an hour ago and the power is beginning to go out. If the storm continues to linger, there could be flooding and landslides across the island -- much like what happened in Haiti.

Here's the kicker: because Gustav's winds have yet to exceed 74 mph, the threshold to be classified as a hurricane, the catastrophe insurance the state purchased through the World Bank and European reinsurers will not come into effect. Because this storm doesn't meet its requirements, any damage Gustav does to roads, drains, and utility lines will come out of the state's already drained budget. So rather than dedicating scarce resources to enhancing disaster mitigation and preparedness, the state will continue to dump what little money it has into recovery efforts. This comes on the heels of Hurricane Dean passing the island 5 miles too far out to trigger a payout last year. Global insurance markets win again!!

On the lighter side, callers to a local TV show have been asking who is faster: Gustav or Usain Bolt! Enjoy being dry,

LAB Comment: Usain Bolt is, apparently, a Gold Medal Olympic Runner.

Tammy Mott (PhD '06, advisor Ed Malecki) spent the month of August volunteering for the Cambodian Orphan Fund (COF), an NGO situated in Siem Reap Cambodia. She writes -- Outside of some very beautiful tourist hotels in Siem Reap, conditions were more primitive than I had ever experienced. Although it was the rainy season, it was very hot and dusty with only about 40 minutes of very hard rain a day. Little children walk barefoot through the street (naked in shanty towns outside Siem Reap), dogs eat from the trash, and there are beggars on most corners. Most of the population lives without electricity or running water.

COF supports programs such as orphanages, schools, and training facilities. While in Siem Reap I taught ESL (English as a Second Language), geography, and hygiene (e.g., teaching children who had never seen a toothbrush to brush their teeth), in addition to consulting for COF about developing future strategies.

Prior to my trip, I spent time fundraising for COF. This money went towards building two classrooms and a bathroom for one of the orphanages/schools that COF supports. This orphanage is located in a shanty town outside Siem Reap along the Tonle Sap River. Neighborhood families plead to have their children enrolled, but there simply are not enough spaces for them all. Once classrooms are built (they had finished them the week I left!), an additional 100 children will be enrolled.
A second school, where I taught, was located farther out from Siem Reap. Approximately 100 children are divided into 3 classes, based on skill levels. They have Khmer language classes in the morning (also Khmer dance), and English in the afternoon. In the late afternoon, students go to another complex where they learn math.

My time in Cambodia was extremely rewarding, humbling, and I fell in love with the children the minute I set my eyes on them. I was fortunate to be introduced to a peaceful and welcoming culture -- a surprise considering their somewhat recent, violent history.

Cambodia remains, though, one of the poorest countries in the world and has a lot of challenges. (i) With the support of North Vietnam and China, Pol Pot (Khmer Rouge leader) was able to gain power in Cambodia. To rid the country of capitalism and democracy, he forced all Cambodians into rural areas to work in the killing fields. About 2 million Cambodians died (the population of Cambodia today is about 6 million). Intellectuals were particularly targeted because Pol Pot saw them as a threat, and as a result, teachers are still in short supply. (ii) Cambodia became the most heavily mined war zone in the world in the 1980s (and has the highest proportion of amputees in the world as a result – one in every 236 Cambodians!). They are still trying to clear mined areas. Walking off the trail in rural areas can be very dangerous.

Scott Reinemann (advisor David Porinchu) spent eight days of August 2007 in Great Basin National Park, eastern Nevada, participating in fieldwork with David Porinchu. He writes -- I was joined in the field by Bryan Mark, Jim Degrand, and Adam Harrington, an undergraduate in Earth Sciences. This was my first experience with fieldwork and the data and knowledge I brought back turned out to be very rewarding. Spending a week in Great Basin National Park, hiking among its mountain peaks and beautiful alpine lakes, all the while doing research for my Master’s thesis was very gratifying. I also worked on several studies, for Professors Porinchu, Mark and Box, who have been working in the park since 2005.

First, I helped with recovering data from temperature and relative humidity sensors set up throughout the park, while also adding a handful of new loggers. This involved climbing to the top of Wheeler Peak, the 2nd highest in Nevada at 13,063 feet. Next we set up an automated weather station on the summit of Bald Mountain, 11,562 feet. The last aspect of our fieldwork, and the most beneficial to my research, was coring two lakes. Stella Lake provided a core of 3.28 m in length, to retrieve a long-time record; Baker Lake provided a core only 13 cm long, to retrieve a short-time record. Over the past year I have analyzed other sediment samples from these two lakes. The Baker Lake core dates back ~100 years, and I used the results in my Master’s thesis to reconstruct July air temperatures. The Stella Lake core yielded a record dating back ~7,000 years, and was analyzed to reconstruct air temperatures in the Great Basin through much of the Holocene. Overall, the fieldwork was extremely valuable in refining my Master’s thesis, and the time spent with colleagues was both entertaining and rewarding.

Sarah Wright (advisors Kendra McSweeney and Bryan Mark): During Summer 2008, I spent 11 weeks in Peru doing research for my Master’s Thesis. After taking two weeks of intensive Spanish classes in Cuzco, I met the field team from Ohio State, McGill, The College of St. Rose, and University of California, Santa Cruz. I joined the group on various field expeditions within the Cordillera Blanca, including a four day camping trip in the Quileayhuanca valley. I learned a lot about physical science research while I helped take measurements and water samples with other team members. One of my advisors, Dr. Bryan Mark, was also introduced me to some local officials and other people that would help me during my stay. Although I was only with the large group for three weeks, I enjoyed my time with them and made many new friends.

The first portion of my trip was an amazing learning experience that taught me about fieldwork while allowing me to acclimate to the high altitude and idiosyncrasies of the local Spanish dialect. Regardless
of university affiliations, all of the professors and students willingly guided me through my first field experiences, whether climbing over 4500 meters for a sample, or working with the government in the main city of Huaraz. It was very rewarding to collaborate with so many wonderful people, especially when they all had great senses of humor.

After the majority of the field team flew back to the United States and Canada, I began interviewing tourists and locals for my Master’s thesis research. I was lucky to have Dr. Jeff Bury and Adam French from the University of California, Santa Cruz to help me and keep me on the right track. With their assistance, I collected 64 interviews from government officials, tourist agencies, guides, international tourists, and most importantly, national (Peruvian) tourists in Huaraz. I will analyze these interviews to get a sense of the opinions and perceptions about melting glaciers and climate change. I hope to answer the question of whether people are still likely to visit this tourism-dominated economy without the main draw of glacier-covered mountains and how these perceptions might affect future policies for the region.

Navigating the perils of field research abroad was made easier by my inspiring advisors, Drs. Kendra McSweeney and Bryan Mark, as well as the many wonderful people I met in Peru, including Dr. Jeff Bury. I am also very grateful to the monetary support provided by the OSU Office of International Affairs, the American Association of Geographers Latin American Specialty Group, and the National Geographic Society. Without the help of these amazing people, I would never have been able to complete such successful research or have such a great time doing it. A big thank you to everyone involved. I cannot wait to go again!

DEPARTMENT EVENTS + MARKERS

Edward J. Taaffe Colloquium Series

Ned Taaffe is considered the founder of this department in its present form, having moved from Northwestern to Ohio State in 1962 to take up the Chairship. He was a major force in spatial analysis, through both research and students, and served the profession with distinction, including being President of the Association of American Geographers.

Our guest for the Autumn 2007 Taaffe Colloquium in Physical Geography was Jonathan Overpeck Peck, as he is known, is Director of the Institute for the Study of Planet Earth at the University of Arizona, and has received numerous recognitions, including a Guggenheim Fellowship. His talk was on Climate Change, Sea Level, and Drought: Dangerous Anthropogenic Interference? His talk revolved around the 2007 Nobel Prize winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fourth Assessment Report (IPCC AR4), for which he was a Coordinating Lead Author. The major theme was “What can be done to deal with the reality of global to regional climate change. Major efforts are now needed to develop strategies for adapting to climate change that is already in the pipeline, and also to identify climate changes that may be deemed unacceptable, and thus worthy drivers of mitigation strategies designed to reduce the rate of atmospheric greenhouse gas increases.” Peck’s talk was a mixture of evidence, facts, jabs at policy, political side-comments, and humor. It was clear that he knows the material in an exceptional manner, is easy in presenting, and at ease in front of any audience, from K-12 to the US Congress. Held in an unusually large auditorium, the room was filled to capacity and even overflowing at the doors. Questions were stimulating, many environmental activists turned out, and the entire event was satisfying, stimulating, and fun!!

The May 2008 Taaffe Colloquium in Human Geography featured Audrey Kobayashi from Queen’s University Canada. Kobayashi is an editor of the Annals of Association of American Geographers and well known for her work on the geography of racism. Her lecture, "Space and Spatiality: Some Critical Moments in Modern and Postmodern Geography examined war, globalization, poverty, and racism as spatial processes. She suggested that poststructural geographical accounts of space are remarkably vague about its ontological status, and theories drawn from poststructuralist social theorists are unevenly applied, and unevenly applicable, in geographical thinking. She argued that Sartre's concept of "spatializing-spatialized" is a recursive
concept of spatiality that has been largely ignored by geographers, but can open up a vista upon spatial thinking that could advance both an ontological and an ethical approach to spatial relations.

Arthur H. Robinson Colloquium Series

Arthur Robinson Received his PhD from Ohio State in 1947 and HonDSc in 1984. He created the Robinson projection that is now the standard for world maps, having been adopted by the National Geographic Society. Robbie had a distinguished teaching and research career at Wisconsin, is a major figure in Twentieth Century cartography, and remained an active scholar until his death in 2004.

Our guest for the February 2008 Robinson Colloquium on Spatial Analysis was Helen Coulalis, Department of Geography at the University of California Santa Barbara. Professor Coulalis has an impressive background in academic planning and geography, and has done extensive consulting work on projects in Europe and Africa as well. Her talk was titled, Landscape and Purpose: Modeling the Human use of Space in GIS. She showed that looking at a schematic map or bird’s eye view of spatial phenomenon, ranging from cadastral maps of service centers to land cover maps of vegetation, can be incomprehensible without other contextual information. She then demonstrated a means for linking form to function (i.e., integrating the spatial layout of objects or natural features with the plan or purpose of the space) by using a variety of other sources of information, including photographs and textual descriptions. Discussion after the talk was especially lively. The day following her talk we also held a smaller, focused seminar to discuss one of her recent papers, “Polyplexity”, regarding the spatial complexity of social and political action. As a lucky fluke of timing, Helen’s visit also coincided with Dan Sui’s (Texas A&M) visit in the CURA seminar series, and she was delighted to attend that talk. Helen commented after the visit on how collegial and engaged the department was as a whole, and how much she herself learned while here.

Award Inscription
Larry Brown
AAG Lifetime Achievement Honors

AAG Lifetime Achievement Honors are presented to distinguished AAG member Lawrence A. Brown, The Ohio State University, in recognition of his extraordinary vision and leadership in the field and beyond. Brown’s long and outstanding career includes innovative research, superb mentoring of students and colleagues, and distinguished service to the AAG, at the Ohio State University and academia in general. Brown is a prolific scholar and public intellectual, caring mentor, and outstanding leader in geography whose research emphasizes the fields of innovation diffusion, population movement, Latin American and Third World development, and race/ethnicity in U.S. metropolitan areas. His body of work has played a significant role in the development of contemporary geographic thought. He has also influenced geographic thought and discourse through his service as an editorial board member on major geography and social science journals. Brown was elected Vice President of the AAG for 1995-96 and President for 1996-97. In addition to his impressive record of scholarly achievement, Brown has mentored a steady stream of junior geographers. He has followed the careers of many geographers with interest and has offered them substantive advice and strategic support at key junctures. In recognition of this, Brown received the Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award of The Ohio State University in 1996.

Award Inscription
Michael O. Sutcliffe
AAG Gilbert F. White Distinguished Public Service Honors

Michael O. Sutcliffe is awarded the inaugural AAG Gilbert F. White Distinguished Public Service Honors, established to celebrate the many years of White’s work on behalf of his community, nation and the world to better the human condition. This honor is conferred upon Sutcliffe in recognition of his skillful application of geographic knowledge and methods to improve public policy and the human condition across South Africa. His accomplishments emanate from a quarter century of involvement with civil rights and anti-apartheid activities in South Africa. He was Chair of the South African Municipal Demarcation Board (MDB) and is the City Manager of Durban. He also served in the KwaZulu-Natal Province legislature. Prior to the end of apartheid in South Africa, Sutcliffe also was an active member of the African National Congress (ANC). Two aspects
of his work on behalf of South Africans are particularly noteworthy: 1) his training as a geographer was central to each post that he has held and to the significance of his accomplishments; 2) he was appointed and considered highly effective by the highest levels of the ANC and South African government, including by Nelson Mandela and President Thabo Mbeki. As Chair of the MDB, he was instrumental in creating a more coherent, rational, non-racial, and integrated system of municipal government. An important geographic aspect of this work has been the establishment of a public-participation GIS that can be used nationwide.

Award Inscription
Ellen Mosley-Thompson + Lonnie G. Thompson
Dan David Prize

Ellen Mosley-Thompson and Lonnie Thompson, Professors at the Ohio State University, USA, are a scientific team, each providing an important contribution to the final product. Together, as a team, they have authored 150 papers using materials preserved in ice cores from Antarctica to Greenland.

Lonnie Thompson leads the field operations on high-altitude tropical glaciers. Ellen Mosley-Thompson conducts field and laboratory programs and reconstructs the conditions recorded by the ice. The analytical work on the ice cores required major advances in the art of sampling and measuring small samples. These high-resolution records provide unique histories of remote regions, the roles of atmospheric dust and volcanic aerosols, abrupt changes in the global environment, and the impact of such environmental changes upon human activities.

Lonnie Thompson samples deep ice on Earth's most daunting peaks and created the field of high-alpine tropical paleoclimatology. He showed that it was possible to get deep cores from high peaks, transport, to preserve them during transport through tropical jungles, and to extract ancient signals from them. He demonstrated that the tropical world is climatically more volatile than previously believed.

The ice core record of Earth history is the ultimate yardstick against which present and projected future anthropogenic effects is assessed. Ice contains wind blown dust, sand, volcanic ash, aerosols, and pollen from around the globe, and it traps air. Ice core histories from Africa, Antarctica, Bolivia, China, Greenland, Peru, Russia, Heard Island and the United States have made it possible to link polar and low latitude-high elevation processes.

Drs. Ellen Mosley-Thompson and Lonnie Thompson have been awarded, either jointly or individually the Roy Chapman Andrews Society Distinguished Explorer Award, the John C. Marshall Award of Marshall University, the Common Wealth Award for Science and Invention (the award recognizes distinguished service to the world community), the National Medal of Science (LGT), Tyler Prize (LGT), the World Prize for Environmental Achievement (LGT), the Dr AH Heineken Prize for Environmental Science of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (LGT) and the Vega Medal of the Swedish Society for Anthropology and Geography (LGT). The Mosley-Thompson Cirques (Antarctica) are named for Ellen Mosley-Thompson.

They have approximately 150 peer-reviewed joint publications. More than 20 of these have been cited more than 200 times. They have led 58 field programs.

The 2008 Dan David Prize honors Ellen Mosley-Thompson and Lonnie G. Thompson, jointly, in the field of Geosciences for their separate and joint efforts in studying the geological and environmental records in ice cores ranging from the polar regions to the highest tropical and subtropical mountains on six continents and remote islands; and for providing high-resolution environmental histories that contribute to the understanding of complex interactions in the Earth's outer envelopes, such as the fast melting of mountain glaciers worldwide and the retreat and disintegration of polar icecaps.

Award Inscription
Ellen Mosley-Thompson + Lonnie G. Thompson
Alumni Medalist Award: For National or International Career Achievement
Archie Griffin Presentation

The highest honor the Alumni Association bestows is the Alumni Medalist Award. It goes to an alumnus or alumna who has gained national or international distinction as an outstanding example in a chosen field or profession and who has brought extraordinary credit to the university and significant benefit to humankind. We are proud to honor two such alumni tonight.

Lonnie G. Thompson and Ellen Mosley Thompson have done pioneering work that has shed light on the one of the most important scientific issues of our time—global warming. Their work in analyzing ice cores has given us a crucial snapshot of the earth’s climate history. They have helped sound the clarion
call and brought attention to the damage that is being done to our world. And Lonnie and Ellen have most certainly done what is necessary to make sure everyone understands this grave concern. They played an advisory role in Al Gore’s Academy Award-winning documentary An Inconvenient Truth, and their findings have been noted in the Congressional Record and in more than 100 radio and television programs.

This year, Lonnie Thompson received the government’s highest scientific award, the National Medal of Science. Jointly, the Thompsons have received the Commonwealth Award for Science and Invention, and the Distinguished Explorer Award from the Roy Chapman Andrews Society. I am so very proud of the important work that Lonnie and Ellen Mosley Thompson have done. They are truly deserving of this prestigious honor.

Ladies and gentlemen, will you please welcome Lonnie G. and Ellen Mosley Thompson, our very worthy 2007 Alumni Medalist Award recipients.”

Ohio Severe Weather Symposium

The 12th Annual Ohio Severe Weather Symposium brought several local and national speakers, as well as two of Ohio State's very own bright minds in meteorology, to OSU's Fawcett Center to discuss topics from historic hurricane studies to the future of weather forecasting itself. This year’s event, held on April 11th 2008, attracted well over a hundred students, not only from OSU, but also from meteorology programs in surrounding states such as Illinois, West Virginia and Pennsylvania. We also garnered the interest of people in the Columbus community who not only attended, but were very inquisitive during question and answer periods.

Officers of the 2007-2008 Meteorology Club, Steve Levine, President; Allison Schmitz, Vice President; David Decker, Secretary; Anthony Scaglione, Treasurer; and Mark Stitz, Social Chair worked through the day of the event to create yet another successful symposium. In an ironic twist, severe weather threatened the symposium itself, and diverted two speakers because of their work commitments during severe weather episodes -- Mike Ryan, meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Wilmington, chairperson for the event and a proud OSU alum (MS '00, advisor Jeff Rogers), and Rich Apuzzo, Chief Meteorologist and CEO of Skyeye Weather, a national weather consulting, education and marketing company in Cincinnati.

While there was disappointment that these two well-known speakers would be absent from the day’s events, it also provided an opportunity to showcase an innovative form of presentation. Rich Apuzzo’s was pre-recorded and sent to the symposium over the web. With a full fledged broadcast studio at home, he was able to put together an informative, visually stimulating, and surprisingly interactive presentation on the weather consultation business and his role in the decision-making process for the City of Cincinnati, the Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky International Airport, and for Cincinnati Reds games when hazardous weather approaches.

Dan McCarthy, now Meteorologist-In-Charge at the National Weather Service Office in Indianapolis, a frequent speaker and guest at OSWS, provided a synopsis of the Greensburg Kansas tornado of 2007, and first-hand accounts and images of the devastation, including a stunning photo of a mangled car nested in the branches of a tree. This was a reminder of the danger to automobiles from tornados, and led to intense discussion. Another NOAA meteorologist, Bill Murtagh specializes in and spoke about space weather prediction, a science that is just now coming into focus due to vulnerability among the increasing number of satellites orbiting the Earth.

David Bromwich and Rachel Mauk, two OSU speakers, discussed advances in locally-focused numerical weather prediction through work at the Byrd Polar Research Center, and research within Geography on the formation of late-season tropical cyclones in the northeastern Atlantic Ocean. Chris Bradley, chief meteorologist of WBNS 10TV, provided insights about the production of local weather forecasts on TV, online, and in the newspaper.

OSU Geography, Jay Hobgood, (director of OSU’s Atmospheric Science Program), the National Weather Service, and the Ohio River Forecast Center (both in Wilmington Ohio) provided essential support for the symposium.
The 13th annual Ohio Severe Weather Symposium is set tentatively for Friday April 17 2009 at OSU's Fawcett Center.

LAB Comment: And so this magnificent, student-driven and student-organized event goes on, year after year!!

UpDate: CURA

The Center for Urban and Regional Analysis (CURA) has continued to grow and evolve with a wide range of interdisciplinary research efforts, but also, changes in personnel. In Summer 2008, Alan Murray left CURA and OSU for a faculty position at Arizona State University, and Larry Brown has taken over as the Interim Director. CURA has witnessed GRA changes as well with the departure of Yibo Zhang, a first year Masters student in Geography and Ho-Seeo Cha and Hyun Kim, both of whom received their PhDs in Summer 2008. Another departure is Post-Doctoral Fellow, Tim Matisziw who has taken a joint position in Geography and Civil and Environmental engineering at the University of Missouri. Jeff Olson remains, as he continues to pursue his PhD. At least one GRA for 2008-09 will be Madhuri Sharma, who is completing her dissertation. Wenqin Chen, the CURA data manager, continues to expand and enhance spatial information used in CURA research. Most recently this has focused on housing transaction data. In addition, she has worked with the University Area Enrichment Association students and staff on litter abatement and household structure. Other projects focus on housing foreclosures, racial/ethnic intermixing within and between urban areas, and the Somali population of Columbus.

UpDate: Kirwan

OSU Geography has become increasingly involved with the University's Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity. The first of us on that scene was Christy Rogers (advisor Mary Thomas), and she has done much to build relationships between Kirwan and OSU Geography along common research interests. Concerning the last academic year, she says the following.

My two biggest projects this year are the State of Black Ohio, a bi-annual report and set of recommendations to the State of Ohio Legislature, and a Subprime Convening in October. The latter was two-days of working sessions among advocates, researchers, policy makers, funders, and other key stakeholders to explore the racial dimensions of the subprime and foreclosure crisis, and identify viable national, state, and local solutions.

Kirwan also hires a class of summer interns each year, and offers a Small Grant program that funds scholarly research on marginalized racial and ethnic groups. OSU geographers have received several of these internships and grants. Kirwan also has retained, on a contract basis, OSU geography undergraduate alum Craig Ratchford, who currently resides in Seattle.

For more on the Kirwan Institute, visit www.kirwainstitute.org.

UpDate: IPL Laboratory

Our Integrated Paleoenvironmental Laboratory is the creation of David Porinchu who joined us in Summer 2004. David specializes in using the biological, chemical, and physical properties of lake sediment to reconstruct long-term patterns of climate change (decades to millennia), identify forcing factors behind such changes, and trace out the impact of change on natural ecosystems and people. This facility is in virtually continual use.

Research in the IPL continues with two regional foci: the central Canadian Arctic and the Inter-mountain West. Dr. Nicolas Rolland, a recent graduate of the Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique in Quebec, spent the year working closely with David on reconstructing Holocene climate change in the central Canadian Arctic, leading to a four papers, two of which will be published in a special issue of Journal of Paleolimnology. Nicolas has returned to Quebec, is working with researchers at Laval University, and will continue his research climate change in the Canadian Arctic. The scientific research and education project in Great Basin
National Park (aka GBEX – Great Basin Expedition), led by Jason Box, Bryan Mark, and David Porinchu, continued with a forth summer of field work in August 2008. This project, supported by the Western National Park Association, centers on assessing recent climate variability throughout the Park, developing a long-term climate history for the region, and evaluating climate impacts on water resources. Two honors undergraduate students, Tyler Serafini and Patrick Burns, spent two weeks conducting field work in the East Humboldt Mountains and the Snake Range of the Great Basin. They participated in all aspects of field work: lake coring, climate data-logger recovery, and launching and weather station servicing. They also had the pleasure of leading their very own pack mules in the field.

LAB Comment: Under Notes From the Field, earlier in this GeoSpectrum 2008, see Scott Reinemann comments on his experiences in the August 2008 Great Basin fieldwork.

HUNTINGTON AWARD RECIPIENTS
1959 TO 2008

1987 – Andrew Mair, Michael Sutcliffe
1980 - Hazel Morrow-Jones, Timothy Nyerges
1979 - Jay Hobgood, Jeff McCarthy
1978 - Evelyn Anderson, Ronald Mitchelson
1977 - Robert G. Cromley, Ellen Mosley-Thompson
1976 – Marilyn Brown, Claire Parkinson
1968 - Jerry Clements
1967 - Keith Semple
1966 - James McConnell
1964 - Tiruvarur R. (TR) Lakshmanan
1962 - Val L. Eichenlaub
1959 - David Wayne Ganyard, Harold Rose

Babies

Nurcan Atalan-Helicke (graduate student) and husband James Helicke welcomed their first, Melisa Nur Helicke, on Saturday, October 4 2008. Melisa weighed 7 lbs and 14 oz.

April Luginbuhl (graduate student) and husband Steve welcomed their son, Samuel Cotton, on Thursday June 21st. Samuel was 7 lbs 9oz, 20 inches long, and healthy. April says, “My son is turning out to be a really neat kid. He’s babbling and creeping and very mellow. It is an amazing thing to watch another human being discover the world around him for the first time. Everything is amazing to him, and it becomes amazing to me, too.”

Kendra McSweeney (faculty), husband Ben, and Lidia welcomed Leo Quiller Graham on July 15 2008. Their daughter, Lidia, is now a Big Sister!

This and That’s

Bill Ackerman On Books

The Booktalk column of OnCampus, 2/21/08, featured Bill Ackerman. Here are some excerpts.

What are your five favorite books and why? I listed 14 of my favorite books. It was very hard to limit this to just five or even ten for that matter. I have been someone that has read since I was first taught how. I even had my own library when I was in grade school and I would check out my Hardy Boys Mystery Series to my friends. Of course there were late charges!!

Group One: Lonesome Dove by Larry McMurtry,
**Group One**


Group One books are those that I have found entertaining for different reasons. I am a cowboy from Wyoming, having been raised in a family where both Mother’s and Father’s sides were ranchers. I still have a small ranch in Wyoming where I have five horses and continue to help my neighbors with cattle drives during the summer. *So Lonesome Dove* is an obvious favorite. A great saga of the American West with incredible character development played out on a wide geographical stage from Texas to Montana.

*Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* is a great philosophical journey in search of quality. I did not learn anything about working on my Harley from this book but I learned a lot about my soul.

*The Source* almost convinced me to be an archeologist. Then I realized that digging in the dirt in 100-plus temperature is not terribly different than digging postholes with a set of jobbers.

*Breakfast of Champions*. I enjoy all of Vonnegut’s writings. I have never analyzed why. I just can’t seem to put one of his books down when I start reading. I suppose I liked *Watership Down* and 1984 for many of the same reasons that I like Vonnegut.

*Hunt for Red October* and *Jurassic Park* appeal to my interest in science and techno thrillers.

Group Two books are more related to my academic interests. *T. Rex and The Crater of Doom* is a great story of scientific discovery written like a mystery. It is one I recommend to all of my students because of the extremely careful nature of the scientific research that took place prior to any publication. That does not happen often enough these days. Students need to know the amount and quality of work that goes into quality research.

*Guns, Germs, and Steel* and *Collapse* are written by a geographer and bring together some really important concerns and explanations for understanding past and current conditions on our planet. In *Collapse* the author also demonstrates that things can change rapidly if we fail to pay attention to the important issues. I use both of these in classroom discussion.

*The Prize* is the story of the oil industry around the world. A truly great book that provides incredible amounts of historical and geographic information about an industry that continues to be so significant in our modern era. I continue to use parts of the PBS series in my classes to provide historical background to today’s situation.

*Arc of Justice*, by one of Ohio State’s own, is a superb book to better understand the long struggle for racial equality in the United States. This is just a great book that everyone should read.

*A Sad and Terrible Blunder* is an excellent historical geography of the events leading up to the Battle of the Little Big Horn. The author provides maps, air photos, topographic sheets and first hand information from his walking the very ground that Custer and his command covered leading up to that battle. I have been interested in this material for a number of years. I have read perhaps every major book that deals with the Little Big Horn Battle. My ranch in Wyoming is just six miles from an extinct volcano today known as Inyan Kara Mountain that has Custer’s name carved on the top, put there in 1874 during the Black Hills expedition by a member of his party, George Reynolds. In my opinion this is the best and most complete book every written on that battle.

**What book would you most want your kids to read?** I do not have children, but if I did I would want them to read Mark Twain’s *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. By junior high I would want them to read *Arc of Justice*.

**If you were to ban one book, what would it be and why?** I am not interested in banning any books.

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**Student Researches Storms**

*Ohio State Lantern* April 1 2008

Some kids become enamored with dinosaurs; others collect coins, paint pictures, or develop a life-long addiction to video games. Rachel Mauk liked severe weather.

"I knew early on that I wanted to go into meteorology," she said. "I was eight, and I'd be
sitting at home watching the Weather Channel. Hurricanes, every summer - it was pretty neat."

Mauk, a senior in geography and physics, is researching tropical storms that form in parts of the Atlantic Ocean between the months of October and December.

"It's not as freakish as it might seem," she said. "Over the past 30 years, we've had 20 systems form out there."

Her advisor Jay Hobgood, associate professor of geography, said Mauk's work is important in part because she "is studying hurricanes that form over parts of the ocean that were thought to be too cold to produce hurricanes."

"Rachel's research may also provide some insight on where we might expect to see hurricanes in the future as the Earth's climate changes," he said.

Mauk said making definite statements about the effects global warming might have on the formation of hurricanes is not easy.

The hurricane record is really incomplete," she said. "It's very difficult to talk about climate change, because we only have about 40 years of solid data."

During her time at OSU Mauk has also interned at NASA, worked at the Olentangy River Wetland Research Park, participated in the OSU Meteorology Club, took an Irish dance class and minored in English. She will compete for a Denman research award this spring.

"I guess I do overextend myself a little sometimes," Mauk said, smiling. "But that's what I love about Ohio State. I really got to do a bit of everything here."

She said the NASA internship came as a surprise.

"I was in the worst mood that day, and I came home to get this e-mail," she said. "I thought it was going to be a rejection letter, and when it wasn't that just made my week."

While at NASA, Mauk and her fellow interns used satellite data to predict how deep snow cover is in any given area. While noting that satellite data had "significant errors" that prevented the project from being a complete success, she said satellites "are being improved all the time."

"We'll get it eventually," she said. "It's was really interesting to see what government research is like. I had this strong suspicion that government research is different from academic research, and (in many ways) it is."

Mauk credits geography with her current path, though she began her tenure at OSU as a physics major.

"I knew I liked science a lot, and if you can do physics you're set for pretty much anything," she said. "Then I realized OSU had meteorology through the geography department ... One of my favorite subject in seventh grade was geography. I just love staring at any kind of map. My prized possessions in my dorm were the world map and the U.S. map."

Mauk will begin working toward a masters degree in atmospheric science at OSU in the fall. When asked what she wants to do when she "grows up," she laughed.

"I don't know when that's going to be," she said. "What I want to do in the end is hurricane research, either academically or as a consultant."

In Memoriam

David Taaffe, son of Ned and Maryalyce, died Wednesday, April 23 2008 at age 44. David was a sports reporter for the Suburban News and The Columbus Dispatch, covering high school sports. He had an encyclopedic knowledge of sports and was a high school high-jump champion, receiving a track scholarship to The Ohio State University. David was a multi-talented guy who could cook, talk sports and critique movies all at the same time.

We in Geography didn’t know David very well, but judging by what others said in the Columbus Dispatch Guest Book, he was a very special person, with a great sense of humor.
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